



Crown Prince: duty

Negotiations on with US, France and Egypt for arms and jets

No foreign forces in Kuwait: Nawaf

KUWAIT'S Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed has denied the presence of any foreign forces in Kuwait.

The minister, talking to reporters of local newspapers and Kuwait News Agency, said that the presence of foreign fleets in the international waters of the Arabian Gulf was due to the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and Iran's rejection of international peace initiatives calling for an end to the war.

F-18s

Sheikh Nawaf linked the recent increase in terrorist acts in Kuwait to the Iranian defeat on the Faw peninsula. He said that Iran has been trying to involve Kuwait in the Iraqi victory in Faw and made many baseless claims, including the one that Kuwait allowed Iraq access to the Bubiyan Island during the offensive on Faw.

He said these claims were just an excuse by Iran.

Iran accuses Kuwait of aiding Iraq in the 7 1/2-year-old Gulf

Co-operate with security forces, urges Sheikh Saad

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah has called on citizens and residents to join hands with security forces in stepping up vigilance to detect any acts intended to upset internal security.

"Responsibility of safeguarding the security and safety of the country and its citizens is not that of policemen and securitymen alone, but of all citizens. They are duty-bound

to show more positive co-operation with securitymen," Sheikh Saad stressed.

The Crown Prince indicated that the government was willing to reconsider laws and regulations which need revisions.

He made the remarks during a meeting yesterday with Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, governors, and high officials of the Interior Ministry.

He praised the performance of security officials and directed them to redouble their efforts to clamp down on saboteurs.

Sheikh Saad instructed law enforcement agencies to show no leniency towards reckless individuals who break the law.

He pointed out recent accidents on highways that have been blamed on overspeeding and reckless driving by some motorists.

The Premier said the government, acting on instructions of HH the Amir, would do its utmost to help security and police forces in fulfilling their duties.

"This includes providing necessary equipment and gears, human resources, high-performance training and material incentives."

The interior minister thanked Sheikh Saad for his directives to police and security

officers, and pledged that law enforcement agencies would not fail the government.

In another development, Sheikh Salem, recently issued directives for the setting up of a new office to be named "The Citizens Service Office."

The office will respond to citizens' queries and enhance the cooperative spirit existing between the public and the Interior Ministry's departments.

Zia does not rule out another martial law

RAWALPINDI, May 24, (UPI): President Zia-ul-Haq has said that he would not rule out the possibility of another martial law in Pakistan if the civilian government was not strong enough to maintain stability.

In an interview Zia, who seized power in a coup about 11 years ago, said: "No wise or prudent person would ever say that you would rule out a fourth martial law. We hope the political institutions are strong enough by 1990" to avoid military intervention.

"If the government is stable and with peace inside, no military man would ever intrude," he said. "This is my seal on the future. No military man will ever intervene."

Zia, as Army chief, led a coup July 5, 1977, that toppled Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, amid widespread charges of vote rigging in parliamentary elections. Bhutto was charged with the murder of a political rival and hanged two years later despite international appeals to Zia for clemency.

Zia lifted martial law in 1985.

Concern

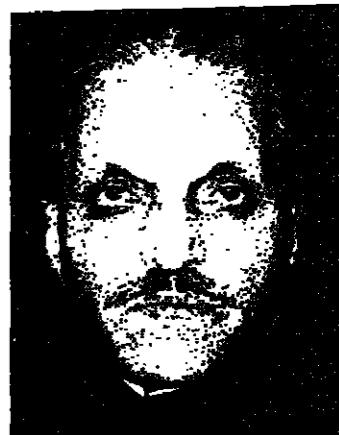
Zia reiterated his concerns over "turmoil in Kabul" and said the presence of Soviet-installed leader Najibullah in Kabul was a "red rag" to the US-backed Muslim guerrillas.

"Until they remove this red rag, or this alien government, Kabul will not rest in peace," Zia said.

He expressed confidence that Najibullah's government would fall but said it was difficult to predict when.

Zia said Pakistan is prepared to recognise a provisional government before the fall of Kabul and added that the "prudent" first step for the insurgents would be to allow the UN envoy on Afghanistan, Diego-Cordovez, to try to help negotiate a coalition government.

"Yet I personally would expect the mujahedeen to wait for the final result of Mr Cordovez's efforts at first," he said. "If they did not succeed ... then they have all the time to establish their provisional government and they should know Pakistan



Zia: possibility

would be the first to recognise it.

Pakistan, which has given refuge to three million Afghans who have fled their homeland since the December 1979 Soviet invasion, has played a critical role as a conduit for US arms flowing to the guerrillas.

Under the terms of an April 14 Geneva accord signed by Pakistan and Afghanistan and guaranteed by Washington and Moscow, Islamabad is to end its support for the Muslim fighters.

But separate agreements between Moscow and Washington provide for a "symmetry" in arms shipments to their respective factions.

Supply

The Kabul government has accused Pakistan of violating the accord by allowing scores of trucks loaded with ammunition to go to the rebel bases on its territory.

Zia noted that no UN observer group has lodged a formal protest with Pakistan and defended his country's support for the guerrillas.

"If somebody says that they have seen convoys after the 15th of May going through, then somebody also should see equipment worth so many billions of dollars have been passed over by the Russians to the Najibullah government," Zia said. "The Geneva accords do not envisage a ceasefire. So the mujahedeen, the freedom fighters, have got to continue their fight."

Hostages in danger, warns Islamic Jihad

BEIRUT, May 24, (UPI): Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas capture more ground from the pro-Syrian Amal militia in the sprawling southern suburbs in fighting with tanks, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades that left at least 15 people dead today, police said.

In another development today, a statement signed by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad organisation warned Western nations with hostages in Lebanon that the fighting could lead to the "liquidation" of all 18 foreigners believed held in the southern suburbs. The statement called for direct negotiations with the kidnappers.

Police said at least 26 people, including two children, three Amal gunmen and two Hezbollah members, were killed and more than 50 wounded in the past two days, bringing the total in 20 days of fighting to 252 dead and more than 1,100 wounded. At least 15 people were killed today.

The spokesman charged that the extremist fighters were backed by about 400 Iranian Revolutionary Guards, who provide training and military guidance to Hezbollah.

Police said Amal fighters, using Soviet-made T-54 tanks pounded the suburbs' inner quarters, including the neighbourhood of Bir Al Abed, a Hezbollah stronghold where the hostages are believed to be held.

A statement signed by the Islamic Jihad Organisation, meanwhile, said the continued fighting in Beirut between the Amal and Hezbollah militias was creating pressures that could lead to the "liquidation" of all the captives."

"The Islamic Jihad Organisation advises the countries which care about the safety of the hostages to start direct negotiations immediately in order to ensure their safety," the group said in a typewritten statement delivered to the offices of a Western news agency in the eastern city of Baalbek.

The escalation came amid reports that mediation efforts by Syria and Iran to end the fighting were deadlocked because Syrian negotiators yesterday refused to

allow Iran a security role to end the clashes.

A Hezbollah source said the fundamentalists succeeded in capturing Ghobeiri after "crushing" Amal defences and capturing its last resistance pockets."

An Amal spokesman, however, acknowledged only that Hezbollah "has gained some ground and overran several positions in Ghobeiri" in a pre-dawn attack that shattered a ceasefire agreed to yesterday.

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INTERNATIONAL

Pressure stepped up

Rebel rockets hit Kabul

MOSCOW, May 24, (Reuter): Several rockets hit residential areas of Kabul today, the Soviet news agency Tass reported as rebel forces attempted to step up pressure on the Afghan government in the midst of the Soviet withdrawal.

"No reports about casualties and destruction have come in yet," Tass said. "It earlier reported that one woman was killed and another wounded in a similar rocket attack by Afghan rebels on Kabul on Monday."

Rebel attacks with bombs and rockets in and around Kabul appear to have intensified since the Soviet Union began pulling its estimated 115,000 troops out of Afghanistan on May 15.

The day before the pullout started, the Afghan news agency, Bakhtar, reported that 16 people

were killed by a truck bomb in Kabul. It blamed the explosion on rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government.

The same day, four people died when three rockets landed hit a village near the Afghan capital.

Tass said today that security forces prevented a rocket attack on the eastern city of Jalalabad, after being tipped off by local people that about 29 rockets were set up for launching.

Withdrawal

It quoted a Bakhtar report as saying that Afghan troops had smashed a rebel group in the southern province of Kandahar.

The Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan is not going as fast

as one general promised, and guerrillas are increasing pressure in the south of the country, Western diplomatic sources said today.

The sources in Pakistan said that apart from the much-heralded retreat of several smaller units, there had been little evidence of other movements.

Soviet General, Boris Gromov, said on May 13 that a quarter of the estimated 115,000 troops would be gone by the end of May, before a superpower summit between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"It is difficult to see how this will be achieved," said one diplomat, adding that the Soviet ambassador in Kabul had said privately that Gromov's timetable was wrong.

Thai girl becomes Miss Universe

LINKOU, Taiwan, May 24, (AP): Miss Thailand, Porniporn Nakhrunkanok, a 19-year-old student from Bangkok, became Miss Universe 1988 today in a flashy pageant on this Asian island where beauty contests once had been banned.

Miss Nakhrunkanok, who attended college in the United States, won \$250,000 in cash and prizes, including a sports car and mink coat. She wept as she was crowned and joined her hands together in a sign of thanks.

She succeeds the 1987 Miss Universe, Cecilia Bolocco of Chile.

Miss Nakhrunkanok, who weighs 51.3 kilograms and stands 172.5 centimetres (5 feet 8 inches) tall was educated at Pasadena City College at the University of California at Los Angeles. She said during the pageant that she owed her ability to speak English to watching "Sesame Street," a popular US children's television show.

The first runner-up was Miss Korea, Yunjung Chang. She was followed by Miss Mexico, Amanda Olivares; Miss Japan, Mizuho Sakaguchi; and Miss Hong Kong, Pauline Yeung.

New power struggle in Israel

Likud threatens new elections

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 24, (AP): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc today threatened to hold early national elections in August as a new political struggle erupted with its coalition partner and chief rival, the Labour Party.

Likud's threat to push for elections on Aug. 23 came after Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' left-of-centre Labour proposed separating national and municipal elections, both now set for Nov. 1.

The jockeying over dates follows a shift to Likud prompted by voters' fears of violence in the five-month Palestinian uprising.

News reports say Labour wants to separate national and city balloting so that Likud's new popularity would not threaten its hold on municipal offices. In response, Shamir's party called for election in August when many of Labour's middle-class backers are on vacation.

In Jerusalem's walled old city, Likud legislators Dov Shilansky and Ovadiah Eli toured the sacred Temple Mount, guarded by some 400 policemen. Israel Army Radio said the mount is one of the holiest shrines in

Islam. Meanwhile, police safely dismantled a bomb planted near the door of a house in the Jewish neighbourhood of Gilo, a police spokesman said.

In another development, a Palestinian woman, Muneira Daoud, was charged with causing serious bodily harm for allegedly hurling a stone at a Jewish settler that prompted him to open fire and accidentally kill an Israeli teen-ager in the West Bank village of Beita.

According to Israeli media reports, Ms Daoud stoned settler guard Romam Aldebi after he shot and killed her brother and another Arab during a clash involving Jewish settler hikers and Palestinians on April 6.

On the political scene, the Labour Party announced plans to seek a parliamentary vote Wednesday postponing municipal elections to March 1989, spokeswoman Michal Cohen told the Associated Press.

"According to the law, municipal and national elections should be held separately," Ms Cohen said. "We think a citizen should concentrate on municipal government issues and not on the national problems during mun-

icipal elections."

She said Labour has more municipal positions than the Likud, its coalition partners, and that the decision followed pressure from Labour mayors.

Ms Cohen denied a report in the Israeli daily Yediot Ahronot that said Labour feared the national elections would influence the municipal ones and give the Likud a boost on the local level.

Likud's call for national elections in August would mean many Labour voters would be voting abroad, political analysts said.

Labour chairman Uzi Baram told the radio that Likud's idea of advancing the national elections was "a total joke."

"Nobody takes it seriously," he said. "You don't advance the elections from November to August. This is another storm in a teacup," he said, referring to numerous earlier threats to seek early elections.

Meanwhile, An Arab member of Israel's parliament urged American Jews to join American Arabs in opposing the Israeli government's hostile policy toward the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli firing

TEL AVIV, May 24, (Reuter): Norwegian United Nations peacekeeping forces in Southern Lebanon have been fired on by Israeli troops, a UN forces spokesman said today.

Timor Goksel, spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil), said Israeli artillery shot "for no justifiable reason" at an armoured personnel carrier and into a Norwegian UN checkpoint on Sunday night near the Ibl El Salib village close to Marjayoun. There were no casualties, Goksel said.

Floods kill three

NEW DELHI, May 24, (Reuter): The annual monsoon rains, India's life-blood, killed at least three people in the northeast today while most of the rest of the country sweltered and went short of water.

The Press Trust of India news agency said three people drowned in flash floods in Assam state and another three were missing as the monsoon, whose progress is detailed minute approached the northern plain.

Hunger strike

JAKARTA, May 24, (Reuter):

Six Americans and an Australian

on trial in Indonesia have launched a hunger strike to protest against their detention, one of the group said today.

"We're not eating until the court answers our petition or sets some of us free," said Daniel Commerford, a 39-year-old California building inspector held along with nine other foreigners by Indonesian authorities for the past 63 days.

Clean-up plan

DHAKA, May 24, (Reuter):

Bangladesh is spending nearly \$40 million to build new houses and other facilities for slum dwellers in Dhaka, a senior municipal official said.

Cause of fire

LONDON, May 24, (Reuter): A fire which swept through a freight ferry in the Channel, killing one crew man and seriously injuring another, was caused by a fractured fuel pipe, the Sealink Shipping Company said today.

Hounding a magician for a lover

(Continued from Page 1)

His knowledge of human psychology, which he says he studied, comes in handy.

Alladin has been in the magic business for 16 years. He is best known for performing illusions like levitation, sawing a woman in half, making a girl disappear and changing a girl into a tigress.

"Magic or creating illusions is 100 per cent tricks, it is an art form," he says. He insists that "anyone can learn magic. It's just a matter of practice and special effects. There are no extra-terrestrial powers."

For Alladin, magic is "academic". With a slight of hand, he pulls out lighted cigarettes, by the dozens, from thin air; changes paper into currency; mends torn currency and is an expert in card tricks.

He claims to speak eight languages. He performed in the Gulf in 1983, holding shows in Dubai, Sharjah and Bahrain. He has also toured many countries including Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Jordan, Pakistan and Indonesia.

He will be performing in Kuwait for another month and is interested in doing shows for charity. His ambition is to perform the illusion of burying a man for 24 hours.

Bingo	Day	11
73	18	70

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KUWAIT

GCC celebrates seventh anniversary

Step forward towards restoring Arab solidarity



HH the Amir of Kuwait



King Fahd of Saudi Arabia



Sheikh Issa of Bahrain



Sheikh Khalifa of Qatar



Sheikh Zayed of UAE



Sultan Qaboos of Oman

THE six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) celebrate on May 25 the 7th anniversary marking the GCC's establishment.

During the first GCC summit conference held in Abu Dhabi (UAE) in 1981, the six member states grouping Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar in addition to the UAE, stressed that the formation of the GCC was aimed at achieving a greater degree of coordination and integration in all fields, and forging closer relations among them.

The GCC summit's statement stressed that the formation of the GCC reflected the Arabian Gulf's will for independence and unity, as well as keeping the region away from foreign alliances and interventions. This gained more momentum amid the then low ebb of joint Arab action and absence of Arab solidarity.

Though the GCC charter underlined that its formation aims at serving and supporting Arab and Islamic issues and

upgrading Arab solidarity, some came under the illusion that the member states started a cartel away from the other Arab sister states.

However, the past 7-year march manifested that the GCC is an important and efficient factor for restoring Arab solidarity.

This was well demonstrated through the efforts exerted by the GCC to patch up Arab differences, solve marginal disputes and put an end to the severing of ties between Arab states.

The latest 8th GCC summit held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on December 26, 1987 lauded the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories and deplored the Israeli arbitrary and brutal practices against the Palestinian people.

Some GCC states are still pursuing their conciliation efforts, on the basis of consolidating and massing all Arab capabilities to confront their common enemy, that is the Zionists supported by the colonialists and anti-Arab forces.

Throughout the last seven years, the GCC stances and practices manifested adherence to

Arab issues and aspirations, whether concerning the Palestine problem, Lebanese crisis, Gulf war or other Arab economic and social development problems.

Since the emergence of the GCC, the statement signed by the leaders of the six member states underlined that Gulf unity would ease up the realisation of Arab and Islamic aspirations, especially amid the prevailing crucial historical period.

The latest 8th GCC summit held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on December 26, 1987 lauded the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories and deplored the Israeli arbitrary and brutal practices against the Palestinian people.

The statement, issued by the 8th summit, considered the Palestinian uprising an indication of legitimate adherence to Palestinian right for self-determination, upholding national identity and practicing their national rights on their soil.

It stressed that the uprising imposes the speeding up of hold-

ing an international conference under UN sponsorship, with the participation of all parties concerned with the conflict including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

As for Lebanon, the GCC always supported Lebanese unity and territorial integrity. It called on all parties concerned to patch up their differences, stop bloodletting and start negotiations aimed at securing Lebanon and Arab interests.

The GCC member states also rushed unilateral or collective aid to the Lebanese people, in a bid to overcome their daily sufferings caused by the ongoing sectarian divisions which adversely reflected on the Lebanese economy.

The GCC leaders supported since inception the efforts exerted to stop the Gulf war, which threatens regional security and aggravates foreign intervention prospects. This came in the final communiqué of the GCC Supreme Council, which met in

Abu Dhabi on May 26, 1981.

The GCC's unflinching efforts to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war continuing for the 8th year running, failed due to the Iranian rejection and determination to continue the war, irrespective of the imminent dangers besetting the whole region.

However, Iraq has always expressed readiness to halt the war, and end their differences with Iran through peaceful means and on the basis of good neighbourly ties and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.

Prelude

The six GCC member states proceeded further towards integration as a prelude for a more profound unity among them. This was well manifested by concluding many agreements, such as economic, strategic, security, military coordination and training.

The collective GCC negotiations with world states and economic groups, as well as the GCC joint stances at the regional and international forums are indicative of GCC's achievements leading to Gulf unity and later to comprehensive Arab unity.

The past seven years of the GCC march, manifested its establishment in favour of its member states and Arab interests at large.

The GCC Chambers of Com-

Computer centre coded 61,383 crimes

MOHAMMED Al Roumi, the director of the computer centre of the Ministry of Justice, said, statistically, the centre programmed and coded 61,383 misdemeanours and crimes, 14,165 cases of marriage and divorce, computerised 5,472 appeal cases and 770 cases were reviewed by the Cassation Court.

He continued by saying that 4196 marriages were documented among Kuwaitis/nationalities last year, 383 marriages between Kuwaiti women and 704 Kuwaiti men comprising 309 Saudis, 23 Egyptians, 15 Palestinians, and the balance 38 of different nationalities. Conversely, 345 Kuwaiti men married non-Kuwaiti women comprising 156 Iraqi women, 120 Saudis, 40 Syrians, 81 Egyptians, 53 Palestinians, 7 Americans and 78 Asians. Statistics on divorce last year were 118 between Kuwaiti women and non-Kuwaitis. The breakdown, nationwide, were Iraqis 36, Saudis 41, Pales-

tinians 3, Syrians 4, Egyptians 7, Asians 15, and 12 of other nationalities. There were 109 divorce cases reported last year between Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaiti women.

On religious conversion, 416 persons embraced Islam in Kuwait last year, including 337 Christians, 43 Buddhists, 35 Hindus and one with no religion. Out of these 12 were males and the balance females.

The prizes were presented by



Mathews presenting the Clint Memorial trophy to Freanka Dhanak.



Sunita Warrier receives the Alexander Memorial Trophy from Dr Mariamma.

Distribution of houses

AHMAD AL SAMAKA, the assistant director of applications at the National Housing Authority, disclosed that the NHA would be distributing new groups of houses, flats, and land allotments to citizens who had applied for them in 7 different areas. The authority would be communicating with the applicants to coordinate the distribution procedures.

In a related development, the assistant director of distribution

and follow-up, Fareed Al Ajel, stated that the NHA would distribute 131 land allotments to citizens at South Rabia during the first week of June 1988. The project consists of 424 allotments related to applications submitted in 1979. He added that NHA would also distribute 116 land allotments in the south Firdous area during the same period and 79 government houses in west Fintas would be distributed during the summer.

Dr. Ridda concluded by saying that as per Article 19 of the constitution, public seizure of property shall be made by a court order and consequently immediate seizure of property, such as unauthorised mobile communication equipment, was impermissible according to Amiri decree No. 8 of 1959.

Plan to redress population imbalance

THE Minister of Planning, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, in an interview with a local daily said special research activities are being undertaken to redress the existing disparity between the Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti population.

He said that the objective was to protect the Kuwaiti heritage and its Islamic and Arabic values and traditions. New concepts are being incorporated in the current five-year plan with a view to achieving these aims.

Al Awadi disclosed that the Higher Council for Planning would discuss these plans during a special session scheduled to be held next Wednesday.

Guarantee deposit

THE director of the department of Legal Affairs and Legislation, Dr Abdul Rasool Abdul Ridda, said the department has issued a legal statute making the issuance of a final guarantee deposit in administrative contracts mandatory.

He said this was imperative to protect the department against errors, ensuring completion of work on schedule and adherence to contractual obligations.

Dr. Ridda concluded by saying that as per Article 19 of the constitution, public seizure of property shall be made by a court order and consequently immediate seizure of property, such as unauthorised mobile communication equipment, was impermissible according to Amiri decree No. 8 of 1959.

39 accidents

THIRTY-NINE traffic accidents were reported in Kuwait on Monday. Of these 25 were in the Ahmadi Governorate, 11 in Jahra, two in the capital and one in Hawalli.

Teachers feel lack of appreciation

THE teachers' society general secretary Jamal Al Kandari said that teachers feel a lack of appreciation and indebtedness from society towards the teaching profession and their contributions to students.

He went on to state that the Ministry of Education utilised the expertise of the society at several educational conferences and at a number of symposiums and committee meetings. Further, he said, the nature of the teaching profession made it necessary for the ministry to cooperate with the society in social and cultural activities.

He concluded that the development of administrative capabilities became imperative to keep up with the rapid educational, social and cultural life styles. He concluded by stating that cooperative development between teachers, the society and the ministry would be the ideal vehicle to achieve the aims and objectives of the teaching profession.

Funky King and Queen



THE 'Funky King and Queen' contest was recently held by the Young Men's Cricket Association during their Holiday Special at the Messilah Beach Hotel.

Over 250 people attended the event. Ashley Silvers and Jennifer Gago won the contest. Runners up were Samir Kazi and Debbie.

The prizes were presented by

general manager Chris D'Souza and Danny Neto, commercial manager, of Hamad Al Ghannim.

The event was sponsored by Hamad Al Ghannim and Agents, Gulf Traders. The Sultan Centre gave cash gift vouchers to the winners of various contests. Above: (L-R) Danny Neto, Jennifer Gago, Ashley Silvers and Chris D'Souza.

Malayalee Samajam winners awarded

THE winners of the Malayalee Samajam, the painting and elocution competition, recently received their prizes at a ceremony held at the IAC, Funatices. It was organised in January as part of the 40th anniversary.

Jordanian minister tours university

THE visiting Jordanian Higher Education Minister, Dr Nasser Al-Assef, yesterday toured the University of Kuwait where he was received by Kuwaiti Education Minister and acting Minister of Higher Education, Anwar Al Nouri, Rector of Kuwait University, Abdel Mohsen Al-Abdel Razak and other senior officials.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged talks about academic cooperation between the Jordanian and Kuwaiti universities.

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EVENTS

VIDEO CORNER

When blondes fly through glass windows

By Gail Seery

cocaine to the market place halting.

The film is very much in the traditional drug-cop mould, but one or two little points are different. One of the high spots of the film is a fist fight with Rizoli (Whoopi Goldberg), and a society mother — not an eye-scratching, hair-pulling fight as usually served up, but a sock on the jaw fight, with pretty blondes flying through plate glass windows. Not that the mould is entirely broken of course. The day after the fight, neither Rizoli, nor the society blonde has a single facial bruise.

In *Jumping Jack Flash*, she played a bank computer operator who finds herself helping a spy to escape from those nasty Russians. In *Fatal Beauty* she's an unorthodox police officer assigned to the narcotics squad, who has a personal interest in seeing the supply of

ned the police officer who was so close to proving his guilt, a handsome body guard, Milo Marshak, played by Sam Elliot, has the sort of goofy, staring eyes that would have got him a role in *Dallas* as Sue Ellen's latest boyfriend/psychiatrist. Probably Mr Conrad Kroll, played by Harris Yulin, realised that the film was in desperate need of a male lead. Or maybe just so that Milo would be there when she tracked down the two psychopaths who killed Kroll's packaging staff and stole the badly cut and consequently lethal mixture being marketed under the name "Fatal Beauty."

One thing I really couldn't understand was why the millionaire drug dealer assig-

Then of course, once Rizoli

has caught up with them, he is given orders to kill her, despite having saved her life already on a number of occasions. He is also supposed to kill the psychopaths of course.

Now do I understand why people keep walking despite having been shot several times. In the good old days they merely used to stagger theatrically and then fall over. Now it would seem that the director has been reading the life story of Rasputin.

One is cheating of course. Naturally the nastier of the two psychopaths, who sports a machine gun and is really not the sort of person I'd invite home to meet my mother, never

goes out without wearing a bullet proof vest. Foolishly he mentions this to Rizoli shortly after she has failed to kill him, and she very sensibly shoots him in the head.

His friend isn't much better. He eats bottles to impress/treat people. This is definitely not an endearing quality.

There are frequent attempts at humour and Whoopi Goldberg's efforts lift the film above the Starsky and Hutch level. However, the film is also very clichéd, with its trite and emotional reasons for the actions of its main characters. It's a good film to kill time with, but most certainly not one to take too seriously.



Whoopi Goldberg:
best in offbeat roles

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

2.25 Holy Quran
2.30 World News via Satellite
3.30 Tao Tao cartoons
4.25 Beer Al Tayi: Arabic serial, starring Hussein Abu Sharah, Lina Al Tall, Rabieh Shihab.
5.30 Variety Show
6.00 Cultural Film
7.05 With Students
7.45 Folklore
8.15 Souk Al Ghaz: Al Dooda's, featuring Mohammad Saeed, Shirin Zuhair Numani.
9.00 News in English
9.50 Hada Al Rajul Arabic serial, serial, starring: Noora, Salah, Saadani, Khalid Zaki.
10.50 Music Studio: variety show
12.00 News Summary Magazine D'Actualite Closedown

"Where the Ballads Were Born". A music show on British and Scottish folk music and ballads.
7.30 Growing Pains, "Thank God It's Friday".
8.00 News in English
8.40 J.J. Starbuck: "The Circle Broken". Starbuck pursues a man believed to have killed his father.
9.13 Football: European Cup Final - PSV Eindhoven v.s Benfica, direct from Stuttgart.
11.20 Private Eye
12.05 News Summary followed by Magazine D'Actualite Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

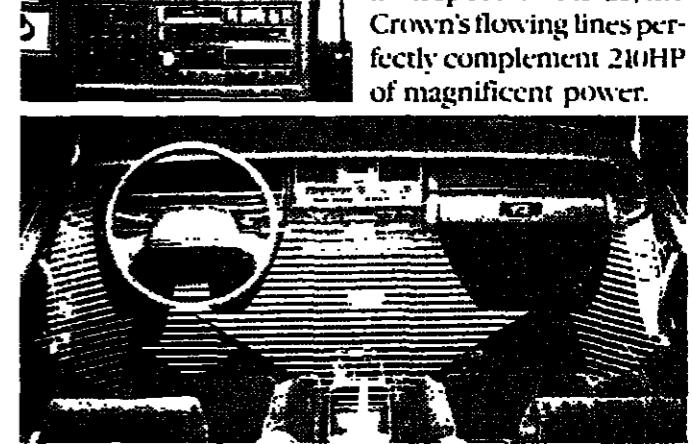
PRAYERS

Fajr	3.18 am
Zuhr	11.45
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	6.40
Isha	8.09

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Adventures of Gummi Bears: Cartoon.
6.30 Tunes of the World:

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ENGINE

Down and out

By Brian Hollis

The list of celebrities who have burned out due to the stresses of their careers is too long to mention. Apart from film stars such as Monroe and Belushi, the greatest casualty rate appears to be in the world of rock 'n' roll. I thought all the cases were well known, from Elvis through Brian Jones, Keith Moon, Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin and on to the very recent Barry Gibb. In fact the latter was the only Australian casualty I had heard of until I saw the Best-Seller *Shout*. This movie documents the life of Johnny O'Keefe, who in 1960 had a couple of American successes under the pseudonym 'The Boomerang Kid'. One of these was the song 'Shout' which gives the film its title, and the reason why O'Keefe never made it big in Europe was presumably because 'Shout' was successfully released by other stars including Lulu and Brian Poole.

Watching the film, O'Keefe turns out to be a thoroughly obnoxious character who shoves and elbows his way to international success in spite of apparently insurmountable obstacles such as lack of talent and originality. In the late 1950s rock was American and most people didn't even know where Australia was. However, Bill Haley befriended O'Keefe during a tour of Australia and somehow he made it to the States. Bankrupt, he moves on to London, where he is committed to an asylum, but eventually returns to Australia where he gets one last chance. He becomes one of Australia's best loved singers and the central star of three TV series, but success leads to his downfall — first he begins to hit the bottle, and later he moves on to drugs. Tony Serio is pretty good as the unlikeable star, but the film dwells too long on concert scenes and screaming fans. Other documentaries such as *The Buddy Holly Story* or *La*



Tony Serio as Johnny O'Keefe in *Shout*.

Al Andalus
Kill Zone
Starring: Vincent Mathews, Ted Brians
Al Salimiya
The Running Man
Al Hamra
Country
Starring: Jessica Lange, Sam Shepard
Drive-In
Al Mazaikati (Arabic)
Starring: Sayyed Ziyan, Saeed Saleh, Sabrina

CINEMA

(Two Shows: 7 pm and 9.30 pm)
Al Firdous
·Falk (Hindi)
Starring: Jackie Shroff, Raakhee
Fahheel Open-air
Paap Ki Dunia (Hindi)
Starring: Sunny Deol

Al Fahheel
Bob Al Nasar (Arabic)
Al Jabra
Princess of Te'a (Russian)
Granada
Imra Min Al Nar (Arabic)
Salabikhat
Malayalam Film
Al Jleeb
Tough Busters
Ahmadi Drive-In
Li Min Sha Wu La Min
Dari (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam



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WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Boushabri Gallery
Watercolour paintings by Yugoslav artist Jovica Prodanic are open at the Boushabri Gallery, Salem Al Mubarak St, Salimya, from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.40 pm.

Kuwait Caledonians
"Ceili" will be held on May 26, Thursday, at the Holiday Inn Hotel, 7.30 pm for 8 pm. Entertainer from Scotland will be Bill Barclay. For reservations phone 5610673 or 5335082.

Kuwait Players
The Players Social Get-together, on June 1, Wednesday. Newcomers welcome. Tel: (pm) 5330934; 5613465; 5611546.

Jumble sale
St Paul's jumble sale will be held in the Anglo-American School Hall, Almadi, from 2.30 pm on Friday, May 27. Clothes, shoes, toys, books, electrical and household items will be offered at bargain prices. All are welcome.

Yugoslavian Festival
Dusica Obradovic, a well-known Yugoslavian singer and the Vučica Mitrović folklore group will perform at the Kuwait Hilton Grand Ballroom on May 28, 29 and 30 at 8 pm. Tickets for the show are available in the hotel lobby.

SPORTS

Kuwait Nomads Rugby Club
There will be an end of season work party at the Fintas Park Ground on Thursday, May 26, at 4 pm. All members are urged to attend.

NIGHT CHEMIST
Kuwait
Al Alamiya Pharmacy
Jandot Bldg., Fahad Al Salem St.
Al Sharq Al Jedid Pharmacy
Opp. Science Museum, Squif Safat
Hawalli and Nogra
Al Jodar Pharmacy
Tunis St.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WHAT sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the soul — Joseph Addison, English statesman-writer (1672-1719).

Controversy over Olympic proposal

Kim Dae-Jung in hot water

By Roger Crabb

SEOUL, (Reuter): "Irresponsible" ... "dangerous" ... "radical". Just as Kim Dae-Jung seemed to be winning acceptance from a long-hostile political establishment, South Korea's enfant terrible dropped another bombshell.

Kim, who last month donned the mantle of parliamentary opposition chief after his party won almost a quarter of the National Assembly seats in a general election, rocked political circles on Friday by proposing talks with North Korea on sharing the 1988 Olympics.

Faced with a barrage of criticism from government, sports leaders and even some opposition figures, the 63-year-old populist campaigner embarrassingly withdrew his call on Saturday, claiming he had been misquoted.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party predictably condemned Kim's proposal as irresponsible and deplorable, saying he was merely echoing what they consider to be the pro-Pyongyang calls for national reunification chanted by Seoul's most radical students.

Nalvete

Some commentators not generally seen as pro-government also rejected Kim's explanation of being misquoted and criticised what they called his naivete and opportunism.

The incident showed the extreme sensitivity that still is required to discuss any aspect of policy towards the communist North, which Seoul leaders say is a permanent military threat and which they fear could try to sabotage the Olympics, due to open here on Sept. 17.

Pyongyang has said it will boycott the Games unless it is allowed to stage up to half the events.

Kim's outspoken remarks, at a closed-door session of his Party for Peace and Democracy, also accentuated widely held fears that the veteran street campaigner would be unable to adapt to the role of constructive opposition leader in a chamber where President Roh Tae-Woo's government no longer has a natural majority.

Controversy

He came down to the level of a 20-year-old freshman on a Seoul campus, said one critic quoted on Sunday in the moderate Korea Times.

The newspaper said in an editorial that his abrupt and

'New thinking' enters Soviet foreign policy

By Carol J. Williams

MOSCOW, (AP): In the Western world of advertising, it would be called an image maker.

In the Kremlin, the shifts and realignments in Soviet foreign policy over the past three years have been labelled "new thinking."

The change in appearance of Soviet diplomacy has boosted Communist Party chief Mikhail S. Gorbachev's standing in the world and improved the atmosphere at international meetings.

Stony-faced officials have been replaced by smiling, congenial diplomats, such as Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze and Anatoly F. Dobrynin, the Communist Party Foreign Affairs Secretary.

Soviet officials have made more foreign trips under Gorbachev's tenure, and Soviet officials are holding more news conferences and social events at home and abroad.

The smoother style has done much to break down the wall of mystery that has surrounded the Soviet Union.

Advances

But in Gorbachev's rebuilding of relations in regions as diverse as the Middle East, Western Europe, Central America and Asia, many themes of Kremlin foreign policy still follow familiar lines.

Gorbachev coined the "new thinking" phrase in speeches during his first months as party general secretary, calling on his nation's policymakers to take a fresh look at Soviet relations and

radical remarks had stirred up a serious controversy.

The gravity of the situation lies in the fact that Kim's suggestions are little more than a repeat of the incredible North Korean demands for the joint hosting of the Olympics.

The Korea Times editorialist added: "Suggesting Pyongyang-Seoul or Seoul-Pyongyang Olympic Games and the holding of inter-Korea political parties talks, he has served as a mouthpiece of the Pyongyang regime, while siding with radical dissidents and activist students, who are continually crying for reckless South-North Korean rapprochement."

Former Prime Minister Kim Jong-Pil, leader of a centre-right opposition party, commented that dealings with North Korea should properly be left to the government.

The Korea Herald, in its Sunday editorial, said: "The reason for us to ease tension on the peninsula is too important to be unrealistically ventured."

"If done unprincipally," the pro-government paper added, "this ... will only lead the North astray."

It is most important at this juncture not to allow Pyongyang to believe that it can influence, and thus exploit, the popular sentiment here towards the North.

Failure

Since the failure of Kim Dae-Jung and rival opposition candidate Kim Young-Sam to mount a united challenge to government candidate Roh in last December's presidential election, ensuring his victory, disillusioned student demonstrators here have turned their attention from domestic politics to the emotive cause of Korean reunification.

There is a depth of grassroots anguish in the South at continued separation from beloved family members. The Korean Red Cross says there are 10 million Koreans on either side of the border separated from their relatives.

Just last Sunday, a 24-year-old student leaped to his death from a roof in the grounds of Seoul's Roman Catholic cathedral, after scattering leaflets calling for joint hosting of the Olympics and other moves towards unification.

The new National Assembly, in which the parties of the opposition's three Kims hold nearly two thirds of the seats, was to have convened this week, but prospects for this looked bleak on Sunday.

The newspaper said in an editorial that his abrupt and

activity around the world.

Three years later, the foreign policy mosaic shows some advances for Moscow, some broadened influence—and signs of stagnation, too.

The most dramatic achievements have been the start of Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, agreed to after eight years of fighting and five years of negotiations, and the signing last Dec. 8 of an agreement to eliminate medium-range nuclear missiles, the first treaty to scrap an entire class of nuclear weapons.

Gorbachev and other senior Soviets have claimed the INF agreement was a result of Kremlin flexibility and perseverance toward fulfilling a goal of a nuclear-free world by the year 2000, a disarmament plan set out in a speech by the leader in January 1986.

US President Ronald Reagan, on the other hand, attributes the Soviet position on disarmament to a White House policy of dealing with the Soviets "from a position of strength."

Despite the rhetoric and conflicting claims of responsibility, the movement on arms control has encouraged observers to believe that "new thinking" has moved from idea to action in some instances.

Soviet soldiers are leaving Afghanistan, thereby removing one of the most contentious issues dividing East and West.

In contrast, however, Soviet military support for Nicaragua, Angola and Cambodia suggests the Kremlin's historic practice of spreading socialist revolution remains a goal.

Iraqi forces consolidate their grip on Faw

Battle decided in opening phase

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1988

By Jim Muir

FAW PENINSULA, southern Iraq: Iraqi forces are busy consolidating their grip on the Faw Peninsula, after scoring what diplomats and analysts in Baghdad agree was their most impressive and significant battlefield victory in six years.

Scores of Iraqi bulldozers are already hard at work removing the debris of battle and arranging new defensive lines across the peninsula's salt flats, dusty plains, and palm groves.

The Iranians have all gone, pushed back across the Shatt Al Arab waterway into Iran itself. But the traces of their two-year occupation have not yet been erased.

Advance

In and around the peninsula's port town of Al Faw, walls and billboards are daubed with revolutionary Islamic slogans in Farsi, the language of Iran, as well as more mundane inscriptions advertising local stores.

Huge portraits of Ayatollah Khomeini and his successor-designate, Ayatollah Hosseini Ali Montazeri, still frown down from the walls of Al Faw. But their faces have been partly obliterated by gunfire from the jubilant Iraqi troops.

The signs on the ground bear out the version of the battle given by Iraqi officials and commanders. Along the former Iranian front line, running across the peninsula to defend the Iranian-occupied southern half, wrecked Iranian tanks and other vehicles litter the chewed landscape.

Behind that line, the indications are that the Iraqis were able to make a swift advance before meeting heavier resistance around an Iranian headquarters west of Al Faw. The Iraqi 7th Army Corps had the tough task of fighting its way down the Shatt Al Arab waterway toward Al Faw through dense palm groves. At Al Faw, it met up with elite units of the republican guards, who had advanced down the west side of the peninsula and then headed up to Ras Al Bisha, then turned and headed up to Al Faw.

Surprise

The charismatic commander of the 7th Army, Gen. Maher Abdul Rashid, said the battle was decided in its opening phase.

"The enemy collapsed after about six hours," he said at his headquarters. "The officers deserted their posts, and the troops fled in disarray. It took us about 36 hours to win complete control of the peninsula."

Diplomats and military

observers in Baghdad believe that the element of surprise was a key factor in Iraq's swift and stunning success. "It was a well-planned, well-executed operation in difficult terrain," a military observer said. "The Iraqis achieved total surprise."

The element of surprise was twofold. This was the first real offensive the Iraqis had launched since they pulled out of Iran in 1982 and adopted an essentially defensive battlefield posture.

"The Iraqis had become so used to the Iraqis playing a passive role," one Western diplomat said. Another added: "This attack was out of character for the Iraqis."

Across the board, diplomats in Baghdad concede that they too were taken by surprise, both by the Iraqi action and by the speed of its success.

The Iraqis achieved tactical surprise too. The day before the offensive was launched, the defence minister, Gen. Adnan Khairallah, paid a well-publicised visit to the northern front, where Iranian troops and Kurdish guerrillas had been making recent probes.

The day before that, President Saddam Hussein himself was also in the north. The battle for Faw peninsula, launched on

night of April 16 and 17, also came on the eve of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Military analysts believe another explanation for the extraordinary speed of the Iraqi victory is that there were far fewer Iranian troops there than was generally thought. The conventional belief before the battle was that Iran had about 50,000 men on the peninsula. In the wake of the fighting, estimates have been revised downwards to 10,000 to 15,000 or even less.

Boost

Despite Iranian accusations, Western observers do not believe the Iraqis used chemical weapons to aid their offensive. "They had no need for that, and there seems to be no evidence of it either," said one military analyst after visiting the area. Neither is much credence given to Iranian claims that Iraq was allowed to use Kuwait's nearby Buwayan Island — and none at all to the Iranian charge that US helicopters joined in the attack.

Their victory has clearly given the Iraqis a major boost, though Western observers in Baghdad doubt that they will be able to pull off similar coups in the future, because the element of surprise has been lost.

By the same token, the loss of

or even worse," said a Western diplomat, pointing to Iran's defeat at Faw Peninsula, its drubbing at the hands of the US Navy in the Gulf, and its reported involvement in the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner. Some diplomats fear that, with no other effective option open to them, the Iranians may resort to sponsoring further acts of terrorism.

Iraq's recapture of Faw Peninsula has also come as a relief to Kuwait, ridding it of new neighbours it would clearly prefer to do without.

The Iranians' occupation of the peninsula had brought them within sight of Kuwait's Buwayan Island, and allowed them to bring Silkworm missiles within range of Kuwait City and its oil installations, which were the target of six strikes last year.

But the Iraqians are believed still to have about 40 of the longer-range Scud-B missiles in their arsenal. They fired one at Kuwait recently. It was not clear whether this was intended as a reprisal for the loss of Faw Peninsula, or for their bruising encounters with the US major forces.

The Iraqians are now back to where they were before Halabja, despite Iranian accusations.

not openly oppose the monarchy and were part of the coalition government formed by Koïrafa in 1959.

Some Congress leaders believe they should strive for a breakthrough by fighting elections under the partyless system and then creating a constitutional crisis. Elections are due in 1990.

"There is great resentment against and disappointment with the partyless system among the masses," said Girija Prasad Koïrafa, a Congress leader and younger brother of the former prime minister.

"There is no democracy, no freedom of the press and corruption is rampant," he said.

"We should go for constitutional struggle. We should fight the election and create a constitutional crisis," said Koïrafa, adding that the Congress was not against the monarch.

Anger

On the basis of the partyless system we should call opposition leaders and talk to them. They are also thinking about the country. We are all for the country, he added.

The diplomat, who declined to be identified, said anger against the system was rising in the countryside — where average per capita income is only \$40 against a national average of \$167 — but there were no political forces into which it could be directed.

He believed the people to watch were communists, divided into 15 or 16 factions and active underground.

"The communists are on their way up. They are vocal and have the image of being pro-people," the diplomat said.

But even the communists do

Dismissed

Man Singh and the rest of the Congress leadership spent eight years in jail when King Mahendra, father of the present King Birendra, dismissed parliament in 1960 and disbanded political parties, bringing an end to an experiment with democracy after just 18 months.

Prime Minister B.P. Koïrafa and the other detainees were freed in 1968 and spent the next

eight years in exile in India, returning in 1976.

The king introduced the partyless system under which councilors are elected at village, district and national level and power is concentrated in the hands of zonal heads.

The system has bred corruption and elected officials are more interested in what they can get for themselves, said one diplomat.

"But former minister Jog Meher Shreshtha, a supporter of the partyless system, said:

"Everybody says the leadership of the king is necessary. If we have a multi-party system, the king will become ineffective."

However, Shreshtha favours political rapprochement with the opposition.

Corruption

Few people in Nepal, traditionally the abode of Hindu gods, oppose the monarchy. King Birendra's family is believed to be descended from Lord Vishnu, the preserver among the gods.

Much opposition anger is directed against palace officials and aides without whose backing few things get done.

"The king is surrounded by sycophants. They don't want to liberalise (the political system). Through this system they are enjoying fruits of corruption. The resentment is all over the country," said Koïrafa.

Soviets learn about labour camps

By Roman Rulinick

MOSCOW, (UPI): For the first time a Soviet newspaper has published a glimpse of life inside a Stalin-style prison labour camp.

The black majority was excluded from government, denied senior jobs, paid badly and forced to carry passes to enter "white" areas. Sex and marriage between races were outlawed.

Nationalists like former Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd dreamed of an "all-white" South Africa, with the black majority becoming citizens of nominally-independent tribal homelands while still providing labour for white industry.

The perception gained currency that slum conditions and racial mixing were synonymous. No government coming into power could have escaped addressing these conditions, Bortha said.

"Of course, with the benefit of hindsight, the coining of the word apartheid was a mistake but at the time it seemed like a logical way of disentangling mixing at the lowest end of the economic scale."

The party's major achievement, he said, had been bringing South Africa from dominion status within the British empire to that of an independent republic in 1961. He pointed to South Africa's economic power and improvements in black education.

Bortha told Reuters he was not overly concerned by the threat from the conservatives who have made dramatic gains in recent elections. "I have little doubt we will still celebrate half a century in power," he said.

Conservative Party spokesman Tom Langley, who quit the Nats in 1982, said the modern National Party lacked vision. The old National Party had been respected for its honesty, he said. "Now nobody knows what's going on."

The National Party won the 1988 by-elections on a platform of "apartheid" (apartheid).

Despite their rhetoric and on-going claims of responsibility, the movement on arms control has encouraged observers to believe that "new thinking" has moved from idea to action in some instances.

Soviet soldiers are leaving Afghanistan, thereby removing one of the most contentious issues dividing East and West.

In contrast, however, Soviet military support for Nicaragua, Angola and Cambodia suggests the Kremlin's historic practice of spreading socialist revolution remains a goal.

Despite the uprising which apartheid has provoked and the

black-and-gray striped jackets and trousers. Prisoners who refuse to work or break the rules are subjected to solitary confinement.

"In winter, when it gets colder than the coldest freezer, all you get is a coat. Heavy boots are only

OUTLOOK

Fa

By Kathy Cudihy

MORE than eleven years in this country gives me the licence, I feel, to reminisce. And what wonderful memories I have. I can look back on "the good old days" and shamelessly insist that, despite the impressive progress, life here was pretty darn good...in its quaint way. I sentimentally hold to this opinion undeterred by the reality that insufficient supplies, sporadic services and over-priced accommodation were the hallmarks of a sleepy desert capital awakening with some astonishment to find itself suddenly propelled into the late 20th century.

With fond nostalgia, I remember when the opening of a new supermarket was a main event which drew crowds of the curious. The term "supermarket" seemed somewhat ambitious for many of the cluttered shops, but the novelty of the enterprise made up for commodity deficiencies. When a "real" supermarket finally opened its automatic doors, my husband was so impressed that he called me in London to let me in on the exciting news.

The "old days" were when going to the fish suq on a Thursday afternoon was the big outing for the week. It was a social gathering as much as anything else...and a bit of an adventure choosing from so many different kinds of seafood whose names and flavours we didn't know.

The boom period was just getting underway and the town (for that is all it really was) exuded a feverish, gold-rush-days atmosphere. Some people had it better than others, but most of us regarded our conditions, good or bad, as a temporary interlude and seldom let ourselves be artificially buoyed or

The way we were



depressed because of them.

Life in Kuwait was a bit like a continuous camping trip; because there were no shops which met (or approached) international standards...and just plain few shops, one couldn't necessarily run out and replenish diminished stocks, or replace items which were missing from or hadn't been included in the original shipment.

Consequently, many people learned to live without "basics," borrowing was de rigueur, and the trade in second-hand items flourished.

In those early days, the inconsistency of the electrical supply, the shortage of water, and the poor telephone service (if one had a telephone at all) were the major areas of physical adjustment. Inevitably, whenever the power failed

our phone wouldn't work. It took months for my husband to convince me that the telephones in this country did not run on electricity.

Apart from the obvious inconveniences and frustrations, most of us had to admit that even hardship has a humorous side. Why, we asked ourselves, did the majority of power failures occur in the warmest weather rather than in the cooler winter months when the air-conditioners were not so vital? Why did the precious water supply tickle to a definitive halt just as we had lathered and shampooed in the shower? (Oh, the number of times my scalp tingled from being rinsed with Perrier water!) And was it really necessary for the telephone to go dead seconds after we said hello to over overseas con-

nexion—after having spent two hours of steady dialing trying to get the long-distance operator?

Because of the privations (real or imagined), or in spite of them, the foreign community enjoyed an unusually cohesive existence. One's first obligation might have been to the employer, but an undisputed loyalty attached itself to the society which could make tough times good and good times better. The keeping-up-with-the-Joneses syndrome noticeable absent itself in those casual, make-do days. No one took much notice of substandard furniture or fittings, or the many other flaws in creature comforts, because these were beyond the individual's control.

Then, oh so gradually, Kuwait matured and began to show signs of sophistication. A new attitude subtlety permeated the society, perhaps reinforced by newcomers who didn't need (and weren't interested in experiencing) the rough-and-ready pioneer spirit. The city's superbly stocked shopping malls made "make-do" obsolete.

I don't pretend not to enjoy the new glitter of the social scene, or the lush vegetation which fills our once desert-scaping compound, or the sheer luxury of a regular supply of water.

But old habits can be pretty difficult to change. Despite the raised eyebrows of companion shoppers, I still buy food in bulk in anticipation (sometimes justified) of prolonged shortages. I also always keep a case of Perrier on hand for old times' sake, just in case we run out of water when I'm in the middle of rinsing my hair. And on those rare occasions when we have a power outage, I instinctively run to the phone. Not to call the electrician, but to verify that there's a dial tone.



A typical view of Portuguese bull-fighters in action in the Campo Pequeno bull ring, Lisbon. (Reuters wirephoto)

Taking the bull by the horns

Portugal's unique form of bull-fighting

By Colin McSevney

LISBON, (Reuters): Nobody could ever accuse Nuno Salvacar Barreto of being scared to take the bull by the horns.

The stocky Lisbon businessman did literally that during 30 years as a leading performer of Portugal's unique form of bull-fighting in which the bull is wrestled to a halt by an eight-man team of "Forcados".

"I have broken almost every bone in my body. But it was a great life and I would do it all again," Barreto, 59 and in semi-retirement, said in an interview.

Fame

Barreto acted as point man—who takes the full thrust of the charging bull—in well over 500 fights during a career which began in the 1940s.

His fame was such that he was called to Italy to perform the stunts in a scene from the

1950s film of *Quo Vadis* in which a gladiator wrestles a bull in an ancient Roman amphitheatre.

"You need confidence and you must keep your hands down when the bull charges. If not, it will lift its horns and then you are in trouble," said Barreto, speaking fluent English in an upper-class drawl inherited from his British-born mother.

In Portuguese bull-fighting, unlike the Spanish version, the bull is not killed and its horns are padded.

The corridas begin similarly in both countries with horsemen and "banderilleros" on foot plunging barbed shafts into the tiring bull's neck and back.

But instead of then facing a Matador's sword as in Spain, in Portugal the bull is approached by the colourfully-dressed Forcados in strict Indian file behind the point man whose only protection is a sturdy midriff and nifty footwork.

"In fact there have only been about four deaths in the last 30 years though serious injuries are quite common," said Barreto who still occasionally leads his team, though nowadays from well to rear.

That is the theory. As Barreto points out, it doesn't always work out so smoothly.

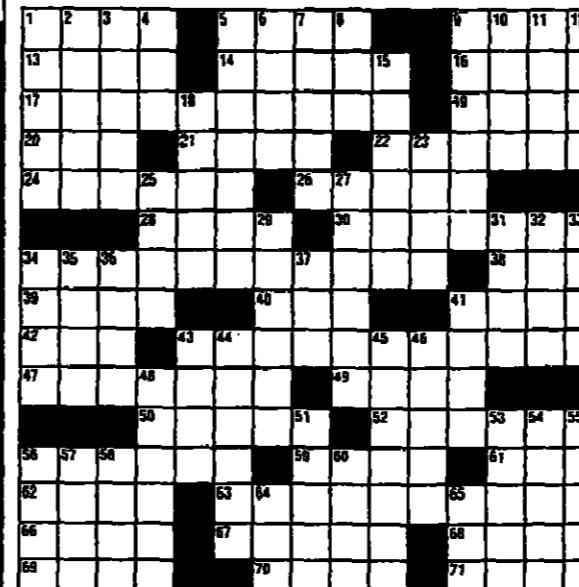
"If you're not securely between the horns or if someone slips there is real danger. Even the banderillas sticking out of the bull's neck are potentially lethal," said Barreto, pointing to scars that cover his arms and shoulders.

Crushed

"Ironically the faster the charge, the safer it is as the bull, when it accelerates, lessens its power to toss back its head," he said.

A young Forcado was crushed to death near Lisbon in the first bullfight of the season recently and in the 1960s one of Barreto's friends died after a banderilla went into his eye.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

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- 5 Theta of the movies
- 9 Relinquish
- 13 Miss Kett
- 14 Capri or Elba
- 16 Rodgers collaborator
- 17 Paunxsutawney Phil et al.
- 19 Region
- 20 Fair-hiring practice: Abbr.
- 21 Footnote word
- 22 Court sport
- 24 Famous Florentine family
- 26 Ramp sign
- 28 City on the Truckee
- 30 Coffee remains
- 34 London's subway
- 38 Ogle
- 39 Port at Suez
- 40 "A rose — rose..."
- 41 Osprey's cousin
- 42 Co. VIP
- 43 Crushed
- 47 Marsh plant
- 49 Woody's son
- 50 Egyptian measure
- 52 — ground (secure)
- 56 Terra firma
- 59 Water, in Juarez
- 61 Soft ground
- 62 Listen
- 63 Retreat
- 64 One of the Aleutians
- 65 A planet
- 68 Nora Charles' dog
- 69 Hardy lass
- 70 Abstinence
- 71 Conference: Abbr.
- 72 "The Night of the —"
- 29 Baltimore batsman
- 31 Foolish fellow
- 32 Unit of force
- 33 Nostradamus
- 34 US service org.
- 35 Hindu mendicant
- 36 Gossip
- 37 Campus at Columbus
- 41 Baseball's Slaughter
- 43 Senator from Utah
- 44 Sphinx's poser
- 45 Lack of rain
- 46 Of a forearm bone
- 48 Spring sign
- 51 Iraqi port
- 53 Entertain
- 54 TV host Allen and son
- 55 Nordic epics
- 56 Mountain pass, in India
- 57 Plexus
- 58 Feedbag contents
- 60 Acquires
- 64 Lout
- 18 More pleasant
- 23 Electro-hypnotic force
- 25 Infuriated
- 27 "The Night of the —"
- 29 Baltimore batsman
- 31 Foolish fellow
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DOWN

- 1 Cover with jewels
- 2 Up — (cornered)
- 3 Came to attention
- 4 59 Across, in Pans
- 5 Bridge activity
- 6 Arthur
- 7 Spacious
- 8 Math, course
- 9 Magician of radio days
- 10 Merit
- 11 Zwei's successor
- 12 Greek letters
- 15 Forward's antonym
- 18 More pleasant
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RAVE Nancy Reagan has come clean about her breast cancer — and put the whole question of to cut or not to cut back under the spotlight.

In the past, famous people have been prepared to tell their story of their encounter with the Big C. And their recovery from mastectomy — surgical removal of the breast — has done their sisters a power of good.

Another President's wife, Betty Ford, did it and had the satisfaction of lying in her hospital bed watching on television the lines of women queuing up for breast examinations because she had gone public about her own lucky break.

Jill Ireland decided to be totally upfront about her operation and treatment that made her hair fall out and her curves fall away.

Barbara Bel Geddes — Miss Ellie of Dallas — had to cope with the traumatic loss of a breast and of her second husband, Broadway producer Windsor Lewis, both from cancer and at the same time.

And Ingrid Bergman's was courage of a different kind. She soldiered on as first one and then the other breast was removed, hiding her suffering behind the most daunting professional determination that the show must go on.

Doctors are no longer convinced that the mastectomy Nancy Reagan opted for is always the best treatment for cancer detected early enough

Fighting the big C

Nancy Reagan, Ingrid Bergman, Jill Ireland ... each of them waged a private war against breast cancer. Their experience has brought about a public discussion of the disease.

and small enough. And hers was picked up at every early stage.

Many experts now favour lumpectomy or removal only of the malignant tumour and a little surrounding tissue with follow-up treatment to fight any spread of cancer to the nearby cells.

Nancy Reagan decided to lose the entire left breast, but not the underlying muscle although a biopsy revealed that her tumour was "non-invasive."

That means that it seemed not to have spread. But only six per cent of cancer victims are lucky enough to get that good news.

Mrs Reagan, who is 66, still opted for the operation called "modified mastectomy", because, said a White House aide, she wanted to get back to work and avoid a "drawn-out" procedure.

That means she decided she would rather lose the breast than face follow-up radiation

therapy with a possibility of hair loss and other side effects that might cut across her full engagement book during her husband's last year in office.

Besides supporting him, she is also heavily involved in her own anti-drugs programme.

Reasons

Whatever their reasons, many women opt for mastectomy rather than lumpectomy — even when doctors say they can save both their breasts and their lives — for purely psychological reasons.

They want to feel, deep down, certain that the whole cancer is gone, and anything it possibly have spread to with it.

And for years, doctors too, favoured radical mastectomy — removing the breast, the muscles that support it and the lymph glands under the arm.

It is easy to see why the disease could breed a tendency to over-anxiety. In much of the world, breast cancer is the second biggest killer of women overall, and the biggest in the over-40 age group.

But mastectomy can cure cancer at the cost of creating other problems. Loss of a breast itself can be extremely traumatic.

About one victim in four will suffer anxiety, depression, or both, in the year after the operation. One in three will complain that a happy sex life has been marred by the operation.

Women who lose a breast can find that they feel less feminine or worry that they are no longer attractive.

According to Professor Michael Baum, consultant surgeon at King's College Hospital in London, and one of the world's leading authorities on breast cancer, the first response to mastectomy is usually euphoric.

"The woman feels she has bad cancer and beaten the crisis," he says. But depression frequently follows six to 12 weeks after the operation. And only 70 percent of women come

to terms with mastectomy a year later.

Professor Baum is not convinced that mastectomy was what Nancy Reagan needed. "I'm very surprised she had one," he says. "If she had minor abnormality, it's a retrograde step. We have been pioneering breast conservation for years."

Another doctor who feels that lumpectomy is the operation of the future is surgeon Ian Fentiman who has been in charge of trials at Guy's Hospital, London, which have already treated 400 women and have the backing of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

They are removing the lump and the lymph glands, but at the same time placing a time bomb of radioactive rods at different points in the breast. Over the following 49 hours this implanted time bomb bombs breast tissue with low level radiation to kill cancer, but leaves the body unharmed.

Patients can then go home and have only to return to hospital for out-patient radiotherapy.

American doctors against mastectomy and for lumpectomy have also criticised Nancy Reagan's decision to go the whole way. One of them accused her of "settling our work back 10 years."

But then she does have one of the best post-operative aids a doctor could prescribe for any mastectomy sufferer — plenty of tender loving care at home.

Supportive friends and family are as important as back-up advice on artificial breasts and other practical help after the operation.

Moments

She came around from the anaesthetic to find the President waiting in her rose-filled room to reassure her that he still loved her as much as ever. Not everyone is so lucky, but Jill Ireland was.

Jill, wife of screen tough guy Charles Bronson, said: "I had heard many stories of husbands turned off by the surgery and wives disgusted with themselves, I realised then how lucky we were to resume a healthy sex life so soon."

The 51-year-old actress admits one of the worst moments of her encounter with cancer was two weeks after she began chemotherapy. Doctors had warned her she might lose



Nancy Reagan with her husband. She publicly declared she underwent a mastectomy.

way to rehearsals. No one in the cast even knew she was ill.

Water of the Moon opened with her in the lead. She missed only two performances. But, when the final curtain came down she sat in the theatre for a long time, watching the last piece of scenery taken down and carried away.

She knew in her courageous heart it was the end of her stage career.

The treatment had been unable to save her a second mastectomy. That failed in the end to save her life. But she did not give in easily. When the news of her cancer became public she vowed "to act to the last day of my life."

From somewhere she found the strength to make the four-hour television film for which she was an Emmy. But she did not live to receive it. Betty Ford whose honesty about her drug problem has since set half Hollywood on the road to kicking addiction to drink and drugs at her clinic, pioneered openness back in 1974 when nice girls did not talk about their mastectomies.

"I never felt psychic wound," she said later. "After all Jerry and I had been married a good many years and our love had proved itself. If he had lost a leg, I wouldn't have deserted him. I knew he wouldn't desert me."

At a conference of the United Kingdom Biochemical Society from 21 to 23 July it was revealed that research suggests it may be possible to protect babies at risk from what is known as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) by dietary manipulation or supplementary vitamins.

Dr Douglas Turnbull from the neurology department at Newcastle University in northeast England, told delegates that some cot death victims had been found to have a defect in one of the enzymes concerned with fatty acid breakdown. He believes this could cause sudden death in the same way that defects in other enzymes can produce muscle weakness, neurological and cerebral diseases, and low blood sugar levels.

Scientists know that fats in the diet are broken down by the body into fatty acids which are further oxidised by a large number of enzymes to release energy. But if a genetic mutation occurs in one of these enzymes its activity will change and an error in the body's metabolism may result. This error can be passed from one generation to another, so putting a baby at risk.

Glutamic acid appears to have a limited role in treating people who suffer from noises in the ear, according to a new tinnitus study carried out in Belfast, Northern Ireland. A group of 21 adult sufferers aged between 31 and 77 were given a 45-minute infusion of the amino acid, and seven reported varying benefits.

The Smart Card, as it is known, contains a microchip on which is stored details of a patient's personal medical history.

Chronic illnesses, allergies or adverse reactions to certain drugs are included together with the subject's doctor's name and prescription details.

The doctor uses a small computer to record on the card

full details of any medication to be prescribed.

When the patient takes it to the pharmacy the chemist inserts it into his computer and the details are displayed on a television screen.

The diet debate

Experts from four different United Kingdom sources have just suggested that it may be possible to control or eliminate some diseases by changes in diet.

The 10th International Congress of Nephrology was told in London on 29 July that diet may slow down or even prevent kidney failure. Research is now under way in Britain and other places to discover whether people suffering from this most serious consequences of kidney disease can be helped by a special diet.

Dr Gerald Coles, consultant physician at Cardiff Royal Infirmary in Wales reported: "Evidence from experimental studies in the laboratory shows that a low protein diet slows the rate at which kidney function deteriorates. A number of reports suggest that this beneficial effect is also seen in man, but there is as yet no certainty. However, there are several large controlled trials under way in various parts of the world and hopefully one or more of these trials will provide the answer."

The conference was told that more than 50 patients per million population reach end stage kidney failure every year and unless treated they die. The choice of treatment was either dialysis or transplantation but Dr Coles said they both had their own complications and were too expensive for many countries.

Cot death mystery

While doctors and scientists test the belief that diet may provide a comparatively simple means of cutting the death toll from kidney disease, biochemists are probing new evidence and a possible answer to the state of mysterious deaths of babies in their cots.

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fat. The diet may also cause a "deficiency disease" due to lack of certain forms of fat and possibly vitamins.

Women's diet

While great success has been achieved in identifying genetic abnormalities in coronary heart disease, Professor Julian says it is likely that other risk factors such as excessive blood clotting also have a genetic component. Again, changes in the diet may be one of the main remedies for such genetic defects.

Even the long-standing problem of pre-menstrual tension (PMT) can be reduced by a change in diet, according to new research just published in Britain. PMT makes life a misery for up to 73 per cent of menstruating women but now an advisory service set up in the United Kingdom in 1984 says this could change.

Maryon Stewart, founder of the PMT Advisory Service, says in her new book on the subject that PMT can be made more tolerable through diet. Already more than 50,000 women have been advised to make changes in their eating habits and an 85 per cent success rate has resulted. The book urges women to eat more fruit, vegetables, nuts, fish, lean meat and wholemeal bread and less junk food.

The advisory service is basing its confidence in using diet to reduce the effects of PMT on an in-depth survey of 1000 cases being sent to the British government's health department and the head of the British Medical Association. Mrs Stewart is advocating improved nutritional education for doctors as a means of getting the message over to women sufferers.

Lead level study

Britain's biggest study into lead in the blood of children has shown that it does have a small effect on their intellectual performance.

Blood was taken from 855 children between six and nine years old in Edinburgh, Scotland, and the initial results of the analysis and a series of tests have confirmed a correlation between increased lead levels and the children's intellectual attainments.

A spokesman for the four year Edinburgh Lead Study said: "The results are in line with those from other studies which have suggested that lead is harmful. Much is already being done to reduce exposure to lead. The results of this study suggest that these measures should continue and, indeed, be stepped up." Full details of the research are soon to be published in "The Lancet" medical journal.

Tinnitus hope

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Health chip

What might look like just another plastic credit card is in fact an electronic record of a person's medical history. The Welsh School of Pharmacy is now testing such a card, devised by pharmacist Dr Robert Stevens.

The Smart Card, as it is known, contains a microchip on which is stored details of a patient's personal medical history. Chronic illnesses, allergies or adverse reactions to certain drugs are included together with the subject's doctor's name and prescription details. The doctor uses a small computer to record on the card

full details of any medication to be prescribed.

This means that while the modern diet is undoubtedly responsible for many heart problems it is not just a case of ingesting too much saturated

Animal rights group jeopardising medical science

Incurably ill fight for experiments on animals

By Dean Lokken

SAN FRANCISCO: Grisly brochures showing animals mutilated in the name of science, raids on medical laboratories, Hollywood celebrities haranguing authorities to defend homeless canines from mad scientists.

Rick Simpson, a 49-year-old victim of multiple sclerosis, decided he was not going to take these onslaughts by animal rights activists anymore. He is fighting back.

Simpson founded a movement, gathering momentum across the United States, intent on protecting the right of researchers to experiment on animals.

He and an estimated 2,000 other members of an organisation called Incurably Ill For Animal Research, or IIAR, believe animal rights groups have gone too far and are jeopardising medical science.

"We want cures for our illnesses," Simpson said in a

interview from his home in Arizona.

"It's selfish but, when you're incurably ill, you're not just philosophising, you're dealing with the reality of finding a cure or not finding a cure."

Simpson's crusade began in the spring of 1983 when he was undergoing experimental drug therapy at the University of Arizona Medical Centre. As he lay ill, a local animal rights group picketed the campus, protesting against experiments on animals.

A leg fracture resulted in an untreatable infectious inflammation of the bone marrow, and he now hopes a drug will be found that can cure it.

Simpson was outraged.

"There are no animal worshippers that are incurably ill," he recalled later.

The day after the demonstration, he launched IIAR, vowing to fight back by spreading the word about the good accomplished by animal experiments.

Today, the organisation has chapters in three states, and others are forming in a half dozen more.

All the group's officers and

most of its board of directors

suffer from an incurable illness — AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, to name a few.

Steve Carroll, IIAR executive director, underwent a series of skin grafts after he was badly burned in a 1971 airplane accident. He is convinced the procedures, first tested on animals, saved his life.

A leg fracture resulted in an untreatable infectious inflammation of the bone marrow, and he now hopes a drug will be found that can cure it.

Carroll, who has a pet Siamese cat, travels the country spreading the IIAR creed.

IIAR has the backing of the California Biomedical Research Association, formed by health groups and universities engaged in biomedical research.

According to the association's executive director Sandra Bressler, radical animals, including mice, cats, opossums, pigeons and a monkey, and caused \$4.6 million damage to

research.

Last year, IIAR campaigned to defeat attempts in Arizona and Florida to bar the use of abandoned animals for research.

Bob Barker, a television game show host and master of ceremonies for beauty pageants, joined animal

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Lukman cautions against energy waste

LAGOS, May 24. (Opecna): Nigerian Minister of Petroleum Resources Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman has stressed the need to guard against energy waste in the country.

Delivering a speech on 'energy policy in Nigeria' at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, near Jos at the weekend, Lukman said that 'an uncontrolled increase in energy consumption would result in reduced levels of crude exports, lowering of oil revenues and mis-allocation of scarce economic resources.'

Policy

He said an energy policy must, therefore, be directed towards increased efficiency in energy use.

A major policy instrument for attaining this objective was energy pricing, the minister pointed out.

He said energy prices should closely relate to market forces without substantial subsidies.

'Cheap energy would unduly encourage waste, economic distortions, recourse to energy-intensive industries, lower returns for energy investments and result in reduced government revenues,' he cautioned.

Adding that effective energy pricing would lead to greater efficiency in energy utilisation and considerable savings in many sectors.

The minister also said that the establishment of a national energy commission and a review of the current institutional set-up for energy-producing sectors had become imperative for more effective energy planning in the country.

He disclosed that the country's crude oil reserve base would be increased through planned encouragement of exploration.

Japan retains top spot as world's biggest creditor nation

TOKYO, May 24. (Reuter): Japan's holdings of overseas assets shot to over \$1,000 billion last year, as the country retained the top spot as the world's number one creditor nation, government officials said today.

'As long as Japan has a surplus in trade in goods and services, it will continue to add to its overseas assets,' one official told reporters.

Government figures show that Japan's overseas assets climbed more than \$300 billion in 1987 as the country's big investors stepped up their buying of foreign stocks and bonds.

Debts

Japan's foreign debts also rose steeply, by more than \$250 billion, as companies took advantage of looser regulations overseas to raise money abroad.

The balance between the two, which determines which country is the world's top creditor nation, shows that Japan added \$60 billion to its net foreign assets last year, bringing the cumulative total to more than \$240 billion.

Although 1987 figures for other countries are not yet available, the officials said they were convinced that Japan remained comfortably in the lead as the world's top creditor nation last year.

Economists said Britain probably remained in second place in 1987. By the end of 1986, it had racked up \$170 billion in overseas credits.

Ethiopia and Somalia to restore air links

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, May 24, (AP): Ethiopia and Somalia agreed today to restore direct air links between their capitals which were severed 11 years ago when the two East African neighbours went to war.

The decision came during an extraordinary meeting of the preferential trade area of Eastern and Southern Africa. The regional grouping is trying to strengthen the transportation and communications network among its 15 members.

Flights

Officials still have to settle on a timetable for flights between Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, and Mogadishu, Somalia's capital.

A recent rapprochement between Ethiopia and Somalia paved the way for Tuesday's agreement.

The Horn of Africa neighbours broke relations in 1978 after they went to war over a semi-arid region of Ethiopia known as the Ogaden. Somalia invaded the territory and claimed it as its own because it is populated by ethnic Somalis.

Bad debts still a problem

UAE bank profits show recovery

DUBAI, May 24. (Reuter): The crates unloaded at a United Arab Emirates quayside were supposed to contain \$1 million worth of high-class perfumes.

But when dock workers pried open lids, they found just a few thousand dollars worth of nappies. The bank which innocently financed the bogus trade deal was left holding the baby.

That incident was a couple of years ago, but banks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are still dogged by bad debts left over from the oil boom years, some caused by fraud and others by a Gulf-wide recession.

Profits

Bank profits in the seven-emirate federation are slowly recovering after a slump in 1985 and a lean 1986. But results for 1987 were patchy and some bankers say it is too early to predict a strong upturn this year.

'There certainly is a bullish attitude in the banking sector now,' said Robin Cutts, assistant general manager operations at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB), formed in 1985 by a merger of three local banks.

'The prevailing response is that we have our problems behind us... but I don't submit to

that view and would prefer to say they are under control,' he told Reuters.

Banks in the UAE, widely seen as one of the most overbanked nations in the Middle East, have largely escaped problems of Latin American debt which plagued their counterparts in Bahrain.

Crisis

The origins of the UAE banks' debt crisis have been closer to home.

Local contractors were often unable to repay loans because they had not been paid by government departments starved of oil revenue. And some merchant trading families, such as the Dubai-based Galadari Brothers, were overextended when oil prices crashed in 1986 and the economy shrank.

Confidence has gradually returned with higher oil prices and after adjustment for inflation, the UAE economy grew by about three per cent last year.

But the recovery has been dampened by a decline in the value of the dirham caused by its fixed peg to the weak US dollar.

'That has made salaries less attractive for many expatriate bankers and some banks are fin-

ding it hard to recruit skilled staff, particularly from Britain due to the strong pound.

The banking sector in Dubai, renowned as hub of Gulf trade, appears to be flourishing more than its southern rival Abu Dhabi, which is the national capital.

'For Dubai, 1985 and 1986 was the trough,' said Charles Neil, general manager of Lloyds Bank in Dubai. 'Since then, there has been a gradual recovery.'

Rise

That recovery has seen a steady rise in net profits for most banks in Dubai, with the biggest, the National Bank of Dubai Ltd, by far the most profitable.

It declared a 0.6 per cent rise in 1987 net profit to \$72.2 million dirhams (\$103 million).

But bankers see the bank as mainly a 'cashbox' for the local government and its end-1987 balance sheet showed only seven per cent of assets in the form of loans and advances.

Other Dubai banks are more exposed to bad debts, especially Union Bank of the Middle East Ltd (UBME), once owned by one of the Galadari Brothers, Abdul Wahab Galadari. It also merged

with two local banks in 1985.

As if to emphasise its break with the past, UBME this week announced a new name, Emirates Bank International Ltd.

The group increased net profit by 38.9 per cent to 31.4 million dirhams (\$8.6 million) last year, but bankers say it relies heavily on about 1.5 billion dirhams (\$410 million) of cheap deposits from Dubai's ruling Maktoum family.

Loans

The bank is working flat out to recover bad loans and is embroiled in a court case with the Galadari Brothers Group for repayment of 401 million dirhams (\$110 million).

Bank of Oman Ltd, which despite its name is a Dubai-based group, increased 1987 net profit by 18.8 per cent to 65.3 million dirhams (\$17.8 million) and has been aggressive in cashing in on a mini consumer credit boom.

The two big banks in Abu Dhabi, ADCB and the National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD), are due to publish 1987 results soon.

Like UBME, the merged ADCB group relies heavily on official aid, with 1.3 billion dir-

hams (\$355 million) of free deposits from Abu Dhabi and one billion (\$270 million) at two per cent interest via the Central Bank.

The bank is expected to declare its first profit when 1987 figures are released.

Cutts said: 'The bank is in very good shape... everybody has dire predictions about the key factor in that we can find non-performing loans and get on with other business.'

Some bankers expect NBAD will make large provisions in 1987 accounts for Latin American debt, one of the few UAE banks facing the problem.

The UAE's third banking centre, Sharjah, suffered a blow to confidence after a failed couple of June which pitted two brothers against each other. Bankers say Sharjah is spending almost all its income from oil and gas to service a heavy debt burden which this year will cost \$230.8 million.

But the emirate's biggest bank, the National Bank of Sharjah, increased 1987 net profit 12.4 per cent to 22.7 million dirhams (\$6.2 million).

World Business Summary

Abu Dhabi plans major overseas oil investments

ABU DHABI, May 24. (Reuter): The emir of Abu Dhabi plans to make major investments in foreign oil companies as a safeguard against oil price fluctuations, an oil industry official said yesterday. Khalifa Mohammed Al Shamsi, general manager of the state International Petroleum Investment Company (Ipic), said at least 10 projects were being considered. They covered oil marketing and refining as well as petrochemicals.

'We are discussing at least 10 agreements with foreign companies and some deals only await a decision to be finalised,' he told Reuters. Shamsi declined to name the cost or the firms involved, but said: 'They range between medium and major deals and some of them are bigger than the agreement with the Spanish company.' Ipic paid \$124 million in February for a 10 per cent stake in Cepsa, Spain's main refining and petrochemical company, and got two seats on the firm's board. Oil sources said the deal, Abu Dhabi's first investment in the downstream oil industry, enabled it to market 60,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil. Shamsi said Abu Dhabi had a plan to buy more Cepsa shares, 'but that depends on Cepsa itself.' Ipic, with capital of \$800 million, was set up in 1984 by the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. It was fully taken over by the government in 1986.

Shamsi said the proposed deals were designed to protect government revenues from the effects of unstable oil prices.

'When oil prices plummeted below \$10 a barrel in 1986, the income of oil producing states which have overseas marketing activities remained almost intact,' he said. 'For this reason, the government decided to enter the field of marketing investment.' Abu Dhabi, the largest emirate in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), produces more than two-thirds of the country's Opec-assigned quota of 949,000 bpd. But the Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey estimated that its output alone in the first half of May was as high as 1.05 million bpd.

BA and Virgin launch trans-Atlantic fare war

LONDON, May 24. (Reuter): British Airways (BA) and Virgin Atlantic Airways launched a summer price war on Monday when they cut trans-Atlantic fares in a move to boost sales. A BA spokeswoman said the stand-by fare to US West Coast destinations such as Los Angeles and San Francisco was being cut by £90 (\$168) to £119 (\$272) each way. Fares to New York and Boston were being cut to £159 (\$297) from £199 (\$409), and the Miami fare was being reduced by £40 (\$75) to £119 (\$209). Tickets to 13 other destinations would also be cut. 'We want to attract more passengers on our bigger network to the US,' the spokeswoman said.

Somalia imported last year five times more than it earned from exports. Nearly half the population consists of nomadic herders and most of the government's present budget is spent on maintaining a large Army to confront Ethiopia, with which Somalia fought a war 10 years ago.

'We won't be more expensive than BA. We will always offer more competitive fares and more style,' marketing general manager Chris Moss told Reuters.

The new Newark fare represents a substantial saving on Virgin's summertime lowest bookable fare of £185 (\$345). The current Miami fare is £179 (\$334).

US farm exports to Moscow expected to rise sharply

WASHINGTON, May 24. (AP): The value of US agricultural exports to the Soviet Union this year is expected to be at a three-year high of \$1.4 billion, up 50 per cent from \$98 million in calendar 1987, the Agricultural Department said yesterday. 'Behind the gain will be much larger wheat shipments at higher prices and much bigger soybean and soybean meal sales,' the Department's Economic Research Service said. Farm product sales to the Soviets exceeded \$1.9 billion in 1985 but plummeted to a 13-year-low of \$68 million in 1986 before starting their rebound. A major factor has been large sales of US wheat at subsidised prices under the department's export enhancement programme. 'The US value share of Soviet grain imports may be above 30 per cent for the first time since 1984 and (may comprise) over 8 per cent of total agricultural imports,' the report said. Although total Soviet agricultural imports may increase 5 per cent in 1988 from last year's estimated \$16 billion, the value still will be below the 19 billion average during the first half of the 1980s.

'Grain imports now cost about \$3 billion a year instead of \$7 billion as in 1981-85,' the report said. Despite a possible 20 per cent rise in the per-ton cost of imported grain in 1988, this 'unit value' will still be around one-third lower in the early 1980s.

US durable goods orders climb

WASHINGTON, May 24. (Reuter): Orders for durable goods in the United States climbed a strong 0.8 per cent in April, signalling the economy was continuing to expand at a healthy rate, the government said today. The April rise marked the third successive monthly increase in orders for such goods, which are generally expensive items such as refrigerators, cars and major items of business equipment. Orders for durable goods reached a record \$116.28 billion last month, the largest monthly total since December 1987, when they reached \$115.6 billion, the Commerce Department said.

Excluding defence, durable goods orders received by US factories also rose 0.8 per cent, meaning Pentagon contracts played only a background role in the April increase. However, much of the increase in overall orders was due to rising demand for electrical machinery which includes defence communications equipment, the Commerce Department said. The department revised slightly downward its report on durable goods orders during March. It said orders increased by 0.9 per cent that month, compared with a 1.0 per cent rise previously reported. The latest report is certain to keep alive a debate in financial markets over whether the economy is expanding too fast, stoking inflationary pressures. The markets fear that if the Federal Reserve Board, the US central bank, decides the economy is growing too rapidly, it may tighten the money supply to raise interest rates and brake the expansion rate.

KUWAIT HILTON 24th - 26th MAY

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S. Africa delays clampdown on insider trading

JOHANNESBURG, May 24, (Reuter): South Africa is delaying over new laws to crack down on insider trading on the stock market, according to the government's top legal advisor on the issue. Insider trading is when dealers, company officials or bankers take advantage of less well-connected investors by buying or selling shares on the basis of privileged information.

'This is very important and urgent. The stock exchange tells us insider trading is running rife,' said Supreme Court Judge Cecil Margo, chairman of an official committee charged with drawing up measures to tackle the problem.

But he told Reuters that

reforms will be delayed until 1989. 'Legislation is before the cabinet. We tried to get it put through in the parliamentary session,' Margo said.

Discussions

'Now I have had discussions and learned that it will not be reached this session,' Margo said.

Johannesburg Stock Exchange president Tony Noronha said probes by the exchange officials suggest trading on inside information is a frequent abuse.

At least 10 cases have been submitted to police over the past decade but not one has resulted in a prosecution, let alone a conviction.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

International Bond Mergers

LONDON — The Commonwealth Bank of Australia is issuing a 300 mln dlr undated floating rate note paying 15 basis points over the six month London interbank offered rate and priced at par, lead manager Credit Suisse First Boston Ltd said. (RTZQ, 0820)

London — Finland is issuing a 100 mln sig Eurobond due June 22, 2008 paying 10-1/8 pct and priced at par, lead manager Credit Suisse First Boston Ltd said. (RTIA 0913)

DUESSELDORF — A unit of Britain's 31 group Plc is issuing a 200 mln mark, 10-year Eurobond with a 6-1/4 pct coupon priced at 99-3/4, lead manager Westdeutsche Landesbank — Girozentrale (WestLB) said.

Frankfurt — West German bankers expect the Soviet Union to issue its first mark Eurobond soon. The bond could be about 500 mln marks for 10 years, they said. (RTZQ 0820)

London — Pioneer Concrete Finance International Ltd is issuing a 150 mln Australian dlr convertible Eurobond due June 21, 1998 with an indicated coupon range of 9-1/4 to 9-3/4 pct and priced at par, lead manager Morgan Stanley International Ltd said. (RTZX 0831)

London — Banque Indosuez is issuing a 50 mln sig Eurobond due July 6, 1993, paying 9-5/8 pct and priced at 101-1/2 pct, lead manager Samuel Montagu and Co Ltd said. (RTTK 1028)

Interbank Rates

	CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN	7-1/2 3/8	7-5/8 1/4	7-11/16 9/16
FPT	3-20/30	3-40/50	3-50/60
PAR	7-3/8 1/2	7-9/16 11/16	7-3/4 7/8
ZUR	1-5/8 1/7-6	2 2-1/4	2-1/4 2-1/2
BRX	3-85	6.00 1/8	6-1/16 3/16
RON	9-3/4 10-1/4	10-5/8 11-1/8	10-3/4 11-1/4
ANS	3-7/8 4-0/0	3-15/16 4-1/16	4-1/8 4-1/8
TOK	3-2500 3125	3-9575 4.000	3-8750 9375
ECU	****	5.81 5.93	6.06 6.18
			6 1/8 6 5/8

Interest Rates

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	6 1/8	6 9/16
3 months	6 3/16	6 5/8
6 months	6 3/16	6 11/16
1 year	6 1/8	6 5/8

BOMBAY

PR.CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	68	66	66	MICO	515	510	520
ACC	189	187	GRASIM	91.50	91	92	NOCIL	475	470	467.50
ASIA PAINT	155	151	152.50	GSFC	114	113	110.50	ORKAY	34	35.50
BAJAJ AUTO	195.75	192.50	190	HIND LEVER	73	72.50	72	PEICO	35	35
BAR.RAYON	247.50	245	240	HINDALCO	75	75	75	PFIZER	70	67
BOM.DYING	122	121	117.50	HINDCOCA	81.25	78.25	80	PRE.AUTO	52	52
BR. BOND	58	58	90	HINDMOTOR	20.50	20.75	20.75	RAYMOND	47.50	47
BSE INDEX	539.42	536.63	536.63	IND.ORG	24	23.75	22	RELIANCE	167	163
CENTURYSPLG	850	845	840	INDRAYOR	63.50	63	62.50	SIEMENS	74	73
COLGATE	195.75	192.50	192.50	INDROL	166.50	163.75	160	SPIC	43.25	43.50
DEEPAKFERT	38	37.75	36	ITC	43	42	43	STDMILLS	240	240
EI.OTELE	50	48	50	JKSYNTH	63	62.50	62.25	TATA PWR	245	245
ESKAYEF	165	163.75	160	L T AND T	92.50	92	89.50	TATACHEM	72.50	74
ESSAR	18.50	17.50	18	MAHINDRA	62	59	60	TELCO	532.50	532.50
GAR. POLY	83.50	83.50	83	MASTERSHR	11	11	11	TISCO	735	730
GE.SHIP	27.35	27.25	26.85	MATHER PL	81	79.75	81	VOLTAS	290	290

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR-CLOSE	STOCK	LAST PR-CLOSE	MITSUB CP	1310	1280	MITSUB EL	724	719	719
AEG	207.8	207.8	AIJINOMOTO	3370	3390	3400	MITSUB EST	2480	2480	2480
ALLIANZ VR	1305.0	1298.0	AKAI ELEC	655	650	650	MITSUB HVY	712	696	696
BADENWERK	180.0	180.0	AKOI	1030	1050	1050	MITSUI CO	938	900	900
BAASF	242.8	243.0	ASAHI GAS	2000	1990	1990	MITSUKOSHI	1700	1720	1720
BAYER	262.3	261.6	ASAHI OPT	690	696	696	MITSUMI EL	1240	1240	1240
BAYER HYP	315.0	324.0	BANKE TOKYO	1540	1550	1550	MICHICON	1370	1400	1400
BAYER VER	309.5	313.0	BRIDGESTON	1480	1490	1490	NIKKO SEC	1910	1900	1900
BBC	314.0	308.0	CANON	1280	1270	1270	NIKKO SEC	1910	1900	1900
BHF	355.0	364.0	CASIO COMP	1240	1270	1270	NIP ELEC	2160	2140	2140
BMW	501.5	505.5	CHUGAI MMG	0	1600	1600	NIP KOKAN	415	401	401
COMMERZBK	216.7	218.0	CITIZEN W	762	781	781	NIP OIL	1180	1180	1180
CONTI GUM	234.9	236.0	D-ICHI KAN	3100	3140	3140	NIP STEEL	472	458	458
DAIMER BEN	576.5	581.0	DAI NIP IK	799	812	812	NIP YUSEN	659	645	645
DEUTSC BNK	384.8	387.9	DAI NIP PT	2580	2580	2580	NIS MOTOR	925	927	927
DLW	350.0	349.0	DAI NIP SC	1110	1070	1070	NOHARA SEC	3920	3940	3940
DRESDNER B	237.8	239.0	DAI NIP TO	606	603	603	OHBA CO	995	1000	1000
DT BABCOCK	140.2	141.8	DAICEI	893	885	885	OLYMPUS	1140	1140	1140
FAZ INDEX	437.16	437.05	DAIMA H	2060	2080	2080	PENTA OCH	865	866	866
GOLDSEGND	252.0	251.0	DAIMA SEC	2440	2450	2450	PIONEER	3160	3130	3130
HARPER	407.0	407.0	EBBA MFG-a	1020	1020	1020	RENOM	966	963	963
HOECHST AG	258.6	259.1	ESAI	2160	2140	2140	RICOR	1300	1320	1320
HOESCH	130.5	133.0	FUJITSU	1540	1550	1550	SANKYO	2040	2040	2040
HORTEN	178.0	178.0	FUJI BANK	3180	3210	3210	SANYO ELEC	570	569	569
HUSSEL HLD	425.0	439.0	FUJI PHOTO	3880	3930	3930	SEIYU ST	0	2330	2330
KALI SALZ	134.5	136.0	FUJISAWA	2080	2090	2090	SEKISUI PB	1990	1950	1950
KARSTADT	454.0	456.0	FUJITA CP	774	779	779	SHARP	1080	1090	1090
KAUFHOF	383.0	393.0	HITACHI	1410	1400	1400	SHISEIDO	1810	1830	1830
KLOECK H	100.1	101.5	HOTEL MOT	1710	1710	1710	SONY	5240	5250	5250
KLOCKW	87.00	85.60	ISETAN	1590	1610	1610	SUMITOMO	1150	1130	1130
LINDE	637.0	635.0	ITO YOKADO	4540	4550	4550	TAISEI	966	967	967
LUFTHANSA	143.0	139.5	JAP SYN R	1000	1020	1020	TAISHO NRN	1130	1120	1120
MAN	174.0	172.7	JAPAN AIR	14600	14500	14500	TAKEDA CH	2870	2880	2880
MANNESMAN	140.7	140.5	JAPAN MET	613	612	612	TEIJIN	836	836	836
MERCEDES	450.0	455.0	KAJIMA	1600	1590	1590	TKO NEW IX	152.39	153.12	153.12
METALLGES	292.5	287.5	KANSAI EL	2950	2890	2890	TOKIO NRN	2020	2040	2040
MIXDORF PF	485.0</td									

Gold, platinum stay in market spotlight

LONDON, May 24. (Reuters): Precious metals prices were buoyed today by inflation worries and fears that South Africa might restrict supplies of platinum, bullion dealers said.

With stock and currency trading dull, bullion markets took the spotlight.

Much-needed rains finally fell on the US Midwest over the weekend and pushed down Chicago corn and soybean futures. But prices rebounded on bargain-hunting by traders who hoped for more weather scares later in the summer.

Sales

Precious metals, favoured as a store of value if inflation seems likely to rise, and therefore sensitive to farm prices, retained most of their recent gains. Gold was fixed for today in London at \$573.75 an ounce, which was just \$1.60 below yesterday's closing.

Meanwhile platinum touched seven-month highs this week on buying fuelled by weekend news that South Africa's far-right Conservative Party, the official

opposition, urged Pretoria to suspend strategic minerals sales to the United States in retaliation for anti-apartheid sanctions.

This morning in London platinum was fixed at \$573.75 an ounce, just down from yesterday's \$575 close.

Stock markets were quiet.

London's FTSE index of 100 British blue chips was up about eight points just under 1,770 in late morning.

Continental European exchanges reopened after a three-day Whitsun Holiday weekend. Paris stocks began slightly higher in quiet business, while West German shares eased.

Earlier, Tokyo stocks rose slightly today in spite of further losses on Wall Street, and the Nikkei index ended 62.9 points, or 0.23 per cent, higher at 27,312.66.

"People are not paying that much attention to what is going on in New York," said deputy general manager Akio Ishida of Yasuda Trust Fund. "This week the Tokyo market could strongly rebound and burst through

28,000."

Currency trading was quiet. The dollar in Europe's morning fetched just under 1.70 West German marks and around 124.25 yen.

Gold ended the day in Tokyo at around \$459.30 an ounce, after closing in New York yesterday at 459.15.

In other regional share markets, Australian stocks rose due to strong gains by leading gold stocks and selected industrials, brokers said.

Higher

The main Australian share index closed 8.2 points higher at 1,469.7, less than a point below its high for the year, with Tokyo's strong performance and the weaker dollar helping to boost prices, the dealers said.

Hong Kong stocks also rose. Gold and platinum prices may be headed for a price boom due to inflation fears, strong investor demand for metals and political uncertainty, Andrew Smith, metals analyst for London stockbroker Phillips and Drew said.

"We see platinum prices rising

to a peak of \$610 and gold prices to a peak of \$420 in the next six months," Smith said in a report on the precious metals outlook.

He said investor demand for precious metals in Asia had risen sharply this year, helped by low prices in yen terms.

On the supply side, new mining capacity is unlikely to come on stream in time to dampen the bullish sentiment over the next six months. Wage bargaining with South African miners begins next month, holding out the chance of a strike.

Gold teeth and fillings are steadily going out of fashion and dentists used less gold last year than ever before, a leading metals analyst said yesterday.

But people are still putting gold in their mouths, said George Milling-Stanley of Consolidated Goldfields PLC in the company's annual market review.

Japanese gourmets now eat the metal, sold in very small quantities, Milling-Stanley said.

Tiny gold flakes are sprinkled over various dishes, but appear to make little difference to the

taste.

The total amount consumed is hard to estimate, but may have totalled about eight kilograms (18 pounds) last year.

This type of gold consumption is unique in that the metal is not recovered afterwards, whereas gold used in all its other roles is.

But the demand for gold to eat is dwarfed by the demand for gold in teeth, even though the use of gold in dentistry has dropped by 25 per cent this decade.

Dentists used just 48 tonnes of gold in 1987, down from 51 tonnes in 1986.

Milling-Stanley said demand for gold in teeth has dropped because of improved preventive dentistry and the move towards the more natural appearance of ceramically-coated materials.

Insurance companies are increasingly reluctant to pay for its use in dental treatments.

Precious metal alloys are used for bridge-work, inlays and crowns, and as well as ceramic-based materials, silver and palladium are cheaper substitutes.

Focus on bricks and mortar

By Midas

FOR most of us, owning our own home is probably our first and major priority when it comes to deciding what to do with our savings. Besides the obvious comfort and security of having a place to live, there is also the possibility of making a nice little

high price can survive.

Beckman predicted the October crash so his pronouncements carry a certain amount of authority, and when he says that he expects prices to fall by up to 80 per cent, it's only sensible to get that much for it. If you are only offered £120,000, the obvious response is simply to hang on and refuse to sell.

About twenty-five years ago, my father earned roughly a thousand pounds a year. He bought an average family sized house in a southern town and paid £3,000, which was three times his annual salary. Assuming the average London family, if both partners are working, are earning around £20,000 a year, then a house today should cost around £60,000.

In fact, you'd be very lucky to find a family size house in London for less than £150,000. Studio flats in Docklands cost £100,000! These prices are tolerable for those who have sold a similarly priced house, or one just a bit cheaper and moved up market a little.

But what about someone who is just buying his first home? Even if he has saved £30,000, which is not easy, he will have to get a mortgage for the remaining £120,000. At ten per cent interest per year, that means he has to pay £12,000 just in interest alone!

Fancy

Only if she decides to move from London to somewhere cheaper can she actually realise her profit. Should she be able to buy a place somewhere for, say, £50,000, then she's made £20,000 free and clear. All this might seem very obvious, but it's easy to overlook in the excitement of thinking one owns a hugely expensive house.

The other problem to consider is whether the current inflated values of properties in the south of England in general, and London in particular, can possibly be sustained. Many analysts, notably Bob Beckman of 'Downwave' fame, doubt that these

figures just don't add up, and I fear that Beckman may well be right that some kind of down-

ward adjustment is overdue.

However, it won't be a sudden crash such as we have seen on the stockmarkets. If your house is worth £150,000 today, if you try to sell it, you will naturally want to get that much for it. If you are only offered £120,000, the obvious response is simply to hang on and refuse to sell.

Instead of a sudden crash, property prices simply become static for a while as people refuse to lose money by selling at a lower price. Only when a logjam of potential movers has built up to the point where some of them simply must sell, do prices begin to fall. Instead of the collapse taking minutes, as on the stock markets, a property collapse might well be spread over three years or more.

Of course, nobody knows whether this will happen or not. I certainly don't have a crystal ball, and there is nothing to suggest that such a drop is imminent. Yet the logic of the situation seems clear, first time buyers are being priced out of the housing market in the South-East.

Nothing goes up forever, not even house prices, and although the upward spiral may carry on for another year or even longer, sooner or later there will be a correction.

How serious it will be is uncertain, but for anyone considering buying a house in London these days, I would advise extreme caution.

For anyone selling, and wishing to move to a cheaper area, the message is equally obvious, go for it!

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD rates slightly firmer

Kuwaiti dinar

Based on opening middle market FX rates, the KD exchange rates were slightly firmer against US dollar commencing the week at 273.78 fils compared with its week before last commencing of 273.78 fils.

Against the pound sterling the KD was easier commencing the week at 517.44 fils compared with its week before last commencing of 510.29 fils. The KD still worries that cheap credit will boost inflation.

And, as a debate intensifies over creating a single European currency, the Bundesbank wanted that: "Good national money like the D-mark should in the final stage of the development only be exchanged for, just as good European money."

In the early days, the main task of the German Central Bank was to resist the temptation to adopt a policy of "easy money" to finance the growth of the infant West German state, it said.

The Bundesbank still worries that cheap credit will boost inflation.

And, as a debate intensifies over creating a single European currency, the Bundesbank wanted that: "Good national money like the D-mark should in the final stage of the development only be exchanged for, just as good European money."

Its firm tone and range trading against the US dollar despite the dollar surge on significant reduction in US-March trade deficit.

The yen/dollar rate at the opening of the week was 124.90/00 yen eased for one day to 125.65/70 but ended the week back to 124.80/85 yen unchanged from its week before last closing.

The yen appreciated sharply against European currencies which weakened against US dollar after the release of US trade data. Comforting news on the inflation front came on the release of Japan's wholesale price index which fell 0.3 per cent in April after a rise of 0.1 per cent in March.

Deutsche mark

The mark eased against a stronger US dollar opening the week at 1,689.00/05 francs and breaching 1.70 level consolidating on that level till its finish at 1,702.50/30 marks against its week before last closing at 1,683.50/40 marks.

The KD was mostly unchanged against the SFR, commencing the week at 195.42 compared with its week before last commencing at 195.66 fils. As against the Jordanian dinar the KD was higher, commencing the week at 763.68 fils compared with its week before last commencing of 770.49 fils. The KD was mostly unchanged against the GCC currencies.

World stock markets

Wall Street stock prices

continued to decline on reawakened fears of inflation and rising interest rates on the sharp increase in the closely watched Commodity Research Bureau index (CRB) and interpreting improved US trade deficit to suggest a stronger economy and increased possibility of Fed tightening.

The Dow Jones industrial average opened the week higher at 2008 but ended lower at 1952 losing an average 39 points compared to its week before last closing at 3,180/183.

As against the sterling the mark weakened further to its lowest level in 22 months hitting 3.19 marks level at 3,190/192 mark per sterling before regaining some of its losses at the week's finish at 3,172/175 marks compared to its week before last closing at 3,180/183.

Pound sterling

The pound sterling fell sizably against the US dollar under the combined effects of a 1/2 per cent cut in UK bank base rates to 71/2 per cent, a public demonstration of patching the over two-month rift between Prime Minister, Thatcher and Treasurer, Lawson on economic and sterling exchange rate policy, and a stronger dollar on the back of unexpected fall in US March trade deficit.

The pound opened the week higher at \$1.8885/95 and ended the week easier at \$1.8690/50 marks and breaching 1.70 level consolidating on that level till its finish at 1,702.50/30 marks against its week before last closing at 1,683.50/40 marks.

The Dow Jones industrial average opened the week higher at 2008 but ended lower at 1952 losing an average 39 points compared to its week before last closing at 3,180/183.

US dollar

The US dollar recorded sizable gains against most currencies following the release of the long awaited US March trade deficit which was strikingly reduced to its 3-year low level at \$9.75 billion from the high deficit of \$13.83 billion in Feb, making the cumulative trade deficit in first quarter 1988 \$36.01 billion, mostly positive during the week against its 3-year high of \$39.22 billion in first quarter 1987.

The US dollar soared on

strong buying interest to its highest level against the mark breaking through 1.70 resistance level.

However, the dollar found difficulty in maintaining above 125 yen level.

Official sources considered present dollar level making US exports competitive which made the dollar outlook more constructive underpinned by booming exports growing by 23 per cent in March while imports grew by only 3.6 per cent.

Japanese yen

The Japanese yen maintained

NBK buys new building in London

MOHAMMED Abdul-Mohsen Al Khorafi, the board chairman of the Kuwait National Bank said here on Monday that the bank bought a building in the West end area in London City.

He said, the 6-storey building will be the bank's head branch in the United Kingdom.

All the employees of the main branch of the bank and an affiliated company will move to the new building at the end of the current year.

Khorafi said that the bank's branch at Orchard Street however will continue to serve its customers as before after it was expanded and equipped with an air-regulator and a computer link with Kuwait.

Bank of New York, which

launched its takeover effort in September, already has regulatory clearance for a takeover of Irving.

Irving's board rebuffed the

proposal and Bank of New York resumed its longstanding cash and securities bid for all of Irving, valued at around \$62 a share.

Irving has been pressing

Milan-based Banca Commerciale to sweeten its offer to raise the overall value of the bid and restructuring well above the Bank of New York offer.

Banca Commerciale, which

last week filed for clearance to

buy a controlling stake in Irving from US bank regulators, has

said it is seeking a foothold in

New York City.

Bank of New York, which

launched its takeover effort in

September, already has

regulatory clearance for a take-

over of Irving.

Proposed

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 24/5/88

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT

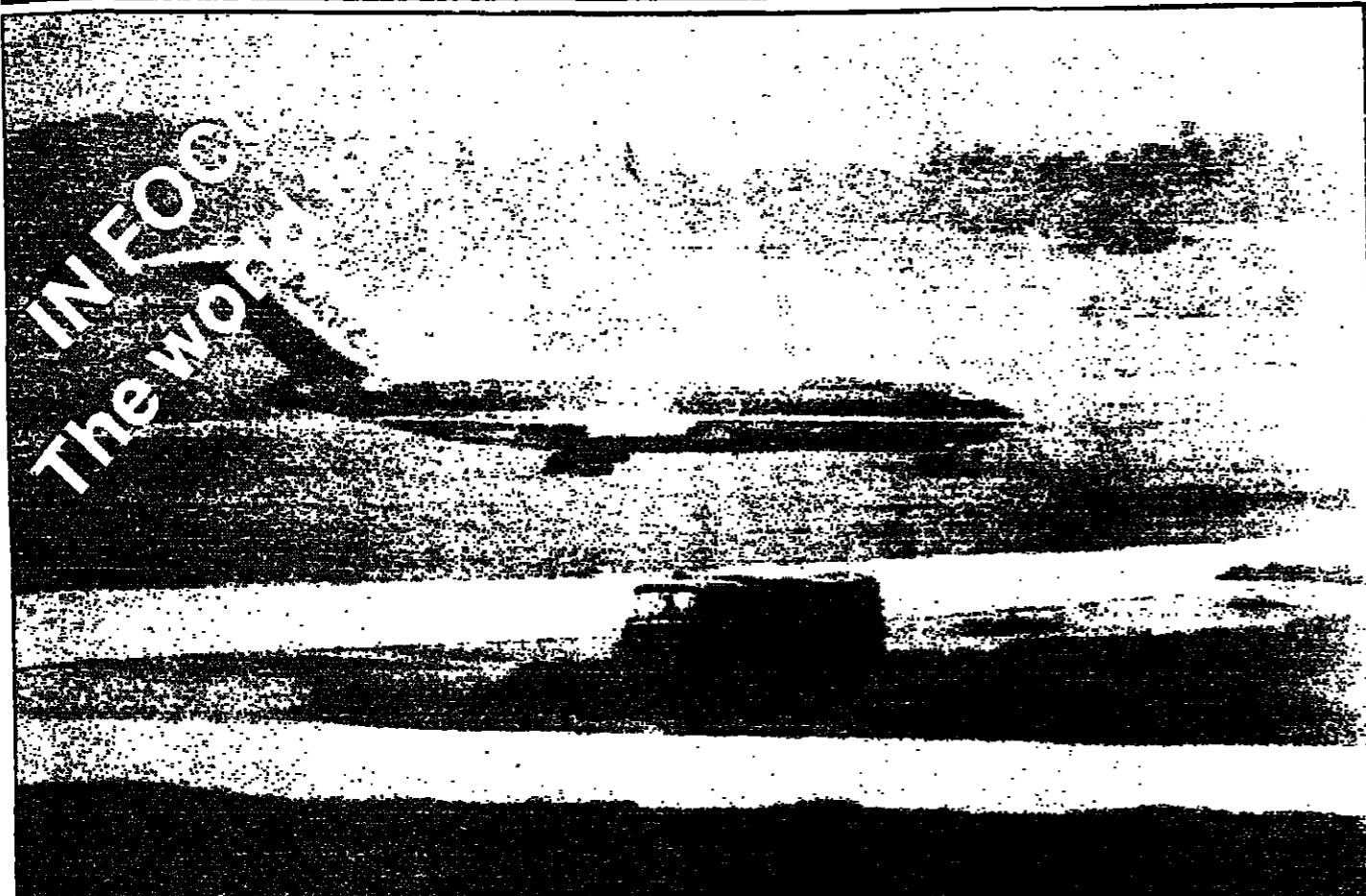
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT

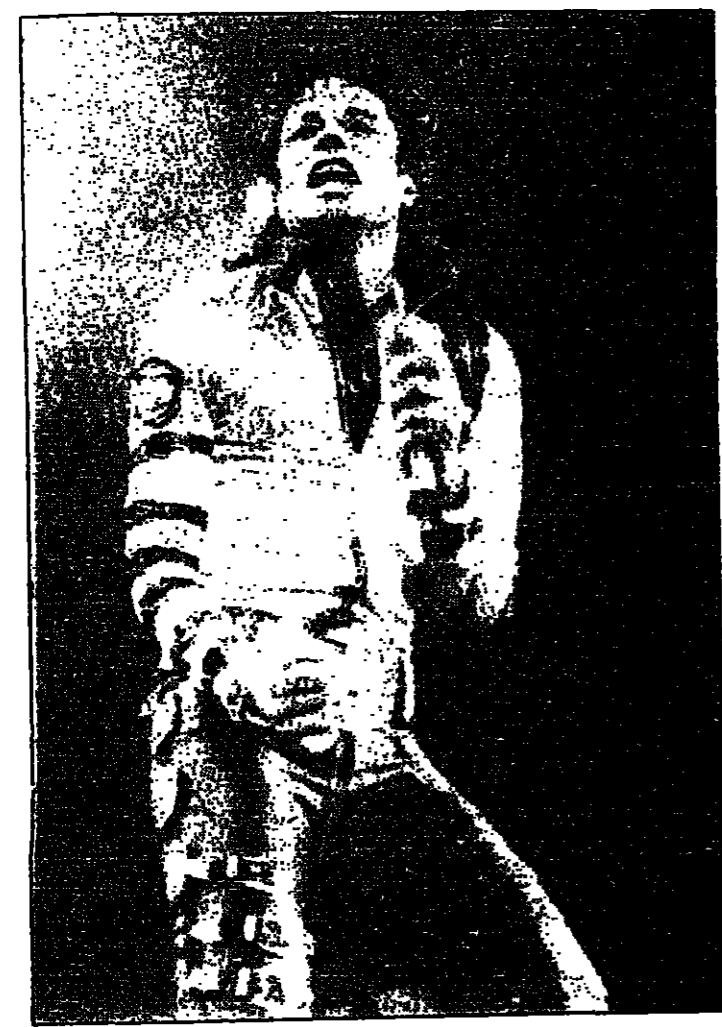
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT

INFO
The world



A BOEING 727 of the Colombian airline Avianca sits on the grass at the International Airport of Panama City on Monday after being hijacked from Medellin, Colombia by a single unidentified hijacker. The aircraft stayed in Panama for three hours before being forced to fly towards Aruba. (Reuter wirephoto)



AMERICAN superstar singer Michael Jackson belts out one of his famous hits at the start of his European tour before some 30,000 cheering fans at Rome's Flaminio Stadium on Monday. (Reuter wirephoto)



US tennis champion Martina Navratilova signifies to Pat Medrado of Brazil that her ball missed the line during the match they played yesterday for the first round of the French Open Championships at Roland-Garros stadium in Paris. (Reuter wirephoto)



BEST ACTRESS award winner Jodhi May (left) for her role in British director Chris Menges' 'A World Apart' seen with British pop star Sting at the 41st Cannes Film Festival. (Reuter wirephoto)



AMERICAN model Karen Sommerville arrives at a London court on Monday for a custody hearing over her five-year-old son, Lorcan. Sommerville, the former girlfriend of Peter O'Toole, is contesting the British actor for custody of the child. (Reuter wirephoto)



MISS THAILAND Porntip Nakhirunkanok waves to the crowd after being named Miss Universe 1988 during the televised pageant yesterday in Taipei. (Reuter wirephoto)



SOUTH AFRICAN Gert Pretorius who used to be a policeman has now changed his name to Ngaka Chaka and has become one of a handful of whites among the country's 179,000 witchdoctors. He is now prescribing traditional herbal medicines. (Reuter wirephoto)



OUSTED Moscow party chief Boris Yeltsin (top) points his finger at an unidentified person as he sits on the back bench of a Supreme Soviet session which later voted him removed from the Presidium. (Reuter wirephoto)



ABOUT 1,000 Filipino women entertainers, including dancers and singers, march through Manila on Tuesday to demand economic retaliation against Japanese business. They protested against a reported Japanese government plan to impose stiff taxes on hotels and nightclubs which they said could mean the lay-off of thousands of Filipino entertainers working in Japan. (Reuter wirephoto)



BELL Helicopter-Boeing Vertol rolled out their prototype of the new V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft on Monday. The aircraft takes off and hovers like a helicopter before tilting its rotors forward and flying like an airplane. (Reuter wirephoto)



AN elderly Soviet woman lights a candle in one of the Russian Orthodox shrines in Zagorsk where American President Ronald Reagan's wife, Nancy, may visit during the US-Soviet summit in Moscow. Zagorsk is one of the holiest shrines of the Russian Orthodox Church. (Reuter wirephoto)



SOVIET Major-General Robert Razuvanov (right) tries on a new general service respirator beside a British serviceman during a visit to Britain's Porton Down Chemical Warfare Centre in western England. Razuvanov was there as part of a visiting Soviet delegation on a bilateral inspection agreement. (Reuter wirephoto)



NICARAGUAN President Daniel Ortega (right) announces a unilateral extension of a truce with the US-backed Contra rebels to allow more time to negotiate a peace treaty. A new round of talks is set for today. Ortega is pictured with his brother, General Humberto Ortega, chief Sandinista negotiator and defence minister. (Reuter wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION

Wanted

NEAR Hilton or near sea side upto Hawalli. Indian bachelor engineer, seeks accommodation with Tele. from June 1st. Tele 2524729. (AT4-42363-3)

For Rent

MISHRIFF, deluxe, CAC single storey villa comprising 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living area, dining room, large fitted kitchen, covered car park and a beautiful garden. KD500. Tele. 5391720, 5382783. (AT4-42324-6)

HUMAITHIYA 1 large deluxe bedroom 7x6m. CAC, separate entrance with kitchen, 5x5m with full equipment and bathroom for 1 or 2 male or female. Tele. 5633999. (AT4-42373-3)

Available

SALMIYA, Amman Street, single room, furnished, for a single male or female from 1st June, with a Tamil family. Tele 5659257. (AT4-42357-3)

FAIRWANIAH, behind Holiday Inn. Single room for RC Goans only. Tele. 2401287. 8.30 am - 12.30 pm, 4.30 - 6.30 pm. (AT4-42374-3)

KUWAIT City, between Sheraton and R.C. Church. Accommodation for Indian bachelors. Tele. 2424245. (AT4-42385-3)

OFFICE FOR SALE

75 sq. metre office space with complete furniture for sole with any licence required. Monthly office rent KD283/- Including water and electricity, in a very good location with ample free parking space in Soor Street. Contact telephone 2406822, between 9 am - 7 pm.

Required

A furniture company requires immediately:
Upholsterers experienced in Oriental diwaniya and sofa sets on demand.
Attractive salary according to qualifications.
Call Tel. 2633172, 2668793.

CARL WEATHERS IT'S TIME FOR "ACTION"



VFI - SAFEWAY
VIDEO NAUF - SAL HIYA. Tel: 2432809
VIDEO CLUB - SALMIYA. Tel: 5724372
and the new branch, VFI - FINTAS TOWERS. Tel: 3940580

AT ALL VIDEO CLUB OUTLETS:

SALMIYA, near Farah Centre. One room with water, electricity and tele. for a couple or a small, Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi Muslim family. Rent KD60. Tele. Mr Qureshi, 5719948. (AT4-42369-3)

KUWAIT City, near Sheraton Hotel. 1 good room in a villa. Sharing of all facilities for a Western person. Rent KD100 all inclusive. Tele. Michael, 2441860, 12 noon - 2 pm. (AT4-42369-3)

SALWA, House 196, Block 7, behind Imani Shop. One big room with kitchen, water and electricity for a family/bachelors, to share with an Indian family. Rent KD50. Tele. 5611243. (AT4-42338-6)

KUWAIT City, Sharq. Accommodation in a CAC bedroom flat with furniture. For further details contact Mr Fernandes. 2446317, after 4 pm. (AT4-42417-3)

FAHAHEEL main Makkah Road, near Sabah Bakery. One big room for Goans/Mangalorians. Filipinos, family/bachelors/spinsters to share with a family. Tele. Victor, 3924194, after 4.30 pm. (AT4-42350-3)

KUWAIT City, behind the Roman Catholic Church. Accommodation in a room for one person to share with a Goan family. Tele. Mr Louis, 2428591, 8 am-1pm. (ATM-TM-2)

SALMIYA, near fire brigade, one room for two bachelors or a couple to share with a Goan family. Contact "Sundes Studio". Tele. 5713768, 9am - 12 noon, 4 - 9pm. (AT4-42362-2)

KUWAIT City, behind Firduous Cinema, Sharq. Rooms for family or working girls. Contact "Saloon Goraya" behind Firduous Cinema. Tele. 2404285. (AT4-42416-3)

VIDEO, TV, cooking range, living room furniture, bedroom set and other items for immediate sale. Tele. 2412487. (AT4-L-TM-3)

MAIDAN Hawalli, near co-operative 2 rooms, 1 hall with tele. for sale. New rent KD120. Tele. Abdul Karim, 5655042. (AT5-42415-3)

VIDEO, TV, cooking range, living room furniture, bedroom set and other items for immediate sale. Tele. 2412487. (AT4-L-TM-3)

WANTED immediately Experienced cooks For Pakistani and Indian food. Also sweets, kabab-likha, chapati-samosa, kabab and shawarma and Arabic food makers, smart waiters for a new restaurant. Attractive salary. Must have a transferable residence. Contact: Montazah Al-Margab. Tel: 2407046.

Philippines Door to Door Service

PHILLIPS TV 26" KD60. Mitsubishi Video, KD50, Phillips washing machine/dryer (2 pcs). KD80, sofa set, KD75, steel sofa set. KD 35, pedestal fan, KD10. Tele. 5615216 res. (AT4-42368-3)

ENTIRE contents of a house, furniture, carpets, curtains, Sinclair Spectrum ZX computer and ladies clothes. Tele. 5339887, after 2 pm. (AT4-42351-3)

LARGE and small plants, girls' bicycle, tricycle, clothes, portable radio, cassette player, kitchen articles and much more. Moving sale, May 26th. 8.30am-1pm. Tele. 5611317. (AT5-42411-3)

TABLE tennis table allweather aluminium structure, foldable, wheels. KD65. Also Canon F1 camera body (fold model). KD100. Tele. Michel Anid, 2469300. 6-9pm. (AT5-42390-3)

VARIOUS household effects for sale. Tele. 4834709, 9 am-1 pm. 5624406, 2-6 pm. (AT5-42345-3)

TWO bedroom apartment for immediate sale near Naveen Church, (Margao) 85 sq. mtrs. with all amenities. Ready possession. Sale price Rs 2.3 lakhs. o.n.o. Tele. 2420289, 8 am-5 pm. (AT5-PT-TM-3)

GENERAL SERVICE

For all your shifting with transportation, painting, wall papering, carpet & villa cleaning. We are at your service, with skilled workers.

Contact tel: 4748877/

4731004. Timings — 8.00 am

- 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm - 8.00 pm. Al Mawasim Trdg.

JVC video camera GR-C7E with accessories, baker dining suite, Schimmel piano, B&O quadrophonic system with stand. Kufuna bedroom suite, appliances and cupboards. Tele. Jacobs, 5381269, 4813633. (AT4-42368-3)

HONDA Civic 1984 model, automatic, 4 doors, silver colour, in excellent condition, KD 1000. Tele. 5657857. (AT3-42365-3)

HONDA Prelude ZX 84 model, 2 doors - sport, manual gear (5 speeds) mag. wheels, low profile wide tyres, metallic grey with full options. KD1250. Tele. 3715354 after 4 pm, 398911 ext. 7306, 7 am - 4 pm. (AT4-42381-3)

CADILLAC Fleetwood model '80, white with sun-roof. In excellent condition. KD800. Tele. Haitham, 5652834, after 2 pm. (AT5-42418-3)

MITSUBISHI Cordia, 1984, white, fully automatic with sun-roof 50,000 kms. Registered up to March 1988. One lady owner, in excellent condition. KD1200. Tele. 2530380, after 2 pm. (AT5-42392-3)

BMW Sci 635, model '80, manual transmission, cherry-red royal colour. In excellent condition. Price after checking. Tele. Haitham, 5652834, after 2 pm. (AT5-42418-3)

NISSAN Pulsar, 1983 model, 1.5 GL, AC, automatic transmission, stereo, sun-roof. In good condition. KD450, o.n.o. Tele. 4834709, 9 am-1 pm. 5624406, 2-6 pm. (AT5-42345-3)

Cars

NISSAN Pulsar, 1983 model, 1.5 GL, AC, automatic transmission, stereo, sun-roof. In good condition. KD450, o.n.o. Tele. 4834709, 9 am-1 pm. 5624406, 2-6 pm. (AT5-42345-3)

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SAS

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5657000 Ext. 419

See you at SAS

Furniture

DOUBLE/single beds, sofa sets, dining table with chairs, wardrobe in very good condition. Contact

Mr Mannan. House 4, Block 5, Road 58, Street 3, Mishrif. Tele. 5387718, 2459035. (AT5-42387-3)

DRIVER required with driving licence for a Kuwaiti family. Tele. 5312840 off (AT4-42371-3)

WESTERN cook required for a family. Must be experienced. Tele. 3713711, 3940526 ext. 66. (AT5-42412-3)

SERVICES

Transport

REQUIRED at 6.30am from Hawalli Ghar Tunis Street to Shuwaikh (opp. Pepsi) return at 1.30pm. Tele. 4815152 ext. 254. 8.30am-1 pm. 2649354 after 3pm. (AT5-42378-2)

REQUIRED from Abbasya to Al Rai behind Mustafa Karam Firm, from 8am-12.30 pm, 4-7pm. Tele. 474661, 4748480. (AT5-42411-1)

AVAILABLE from Hassawi, Abbasya to Shuwaikh. Timing banking hours. Tele. Tony, 4848995, 7.30 am-1.30 pm. (AT5-42363-2)

REQUIRED from Indian School, Salmiya to Sultan Center, Shuwaikh for a gentleman. 7.15 am, 1pm, 4.15 and 7pm. Tele. 5618413, res. 4844448 ext. 413. 405. (AT5-42413-3)

Mishrif Villa, 4 bedrooms with carpet and curtains, KD 550. Surra: Villa with swimming pool, KD 4100. Salwa Villa, 5 bedrooms with swimming pool, KD 800. Villa for ambassador, KD 1600 plus many villas and flats available in all areas in Kuwait. (AT5-42413-3)

FOR RENT

Villas, half villas, buildings, and flats with or without swimming pool.

Al Azraq Real Estate

Tel. 2452199, 2452198

FOR RENT

Mishrif Villa, 4 bedrooms with carpet and curtains, KD 550.

Surra: Villa with swimming pool, KD 4100.

Salwa Villa, 5 bedrooms with swimming pool, KD 800.

Villa for ambassador, KD 1600 plus many villas and flats available in all areas in Kuwait.

(AT5-42413-3)

JAZZERCISE

(Is back — It's a girl)

60 min of aerobic exercises with unique dance movements to keep you in shape and smiling. It's a fantastic approach to physical fitness.

For class times call MBH

Tel: 5624111 ext. 751

VILLA FOR RENT

A uniquely designed modern villa, with marble flooring throughout, covered with Persian carpets, C/A basement garage & annexe:

For details Tel. 5339280, 5339281.

BIG SALE

AIWA V-450 KD. 59/-

KOMPOZ

CK-550 CX-550 SX-M550

● 100 watts (PMPO) output power ● Double cassette deck: High speed tape-to-tape dubbing ● 5-band graphic equalizer ● 4-band reception: AM/FM/SW1/SW2 ● Accurate response 2-way speakers

● CD Link in terminals ● Convenient Accessory Case.

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FAHD SALEM STREET Tel. 2410419-2411782

DISHWASHER D340S J3942 KD109.950

UPRIGHT FREEZER F4210S J3942 KD73.950

AUTOMATIC DRY IRON PS11R J3942 KD2.500

REFRIGERATOR R2251BS J3942 KD96.650

INDESIT

Elca Carbon FILTER HOOD 60x90 KD16.500

GAS COOKER K540BZ KD52

COFFEE GRINDER MA10 KD6.950 KD2.500

TABLE TOP REFRIGERATOR R1400S J3942 KD48.400

JOY JOY

SPORTS

Lakers score easy win over Mavericks

INGLEWOOD, California, May 24, (AP): James Worthy scored 28 points and Byron Scott 23 as the Los Angeles Lakers turned back a second-quarter Dallas rally and beat the Mavericks 113-98 last night in game 1 of the NBA Western Conference finals.

Magic Johnson added 19, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar 17 and AC Green 14 for the defending champion Lakers, who led 52-49 at halftime.

Mark Aguirre, Rolando Blackman and Roy Tarpley scored 18 apiece for the Mavericks, and Derek Harper added 17.

Game 2 is set for tomorrow night in Inglewood. The series then shifts to Dallas' Reunion Arena for games Friday and Sunday.

Missed

The Lakers took a 41-32 lead on Michael Cooper's 3-point shot with 9:45 to play in the second quarter. But Dallas — led by Tarpley, Aguirre and Blackman — went on a 15-1 run capped by Blackman's long jumper at 4:22 to take a 47-42 lead.

The Lakers missed nine straight field goals before Abdul-Jabbar hit a sky hook at 3:53 of the second quarter to start an 8-0 run that gave the Lakers a 50-47 lead.

Los Angeles got its running game going in the third quarter and sprinted to a 76-63 lead with 2:29 left as Worthy, Scott and Green made three baskets apiece. Two of Scott's baskets were 3-pointers.

Worthy and Green each scored again, and the Lakers led 80-69 at the end of the period.

The Lakers' biggest lead of the game was 96-79, following Myschal Thompson's bucket on a pass from Scott with 6:50 to play.

Three Andretti

INDIANAPOLIS, May 24. (Reuters): For two decades the name Andretti has been associated with the Indianapolis 500 motor race, but this year there will be three Andrettis.

Mario Andretti, the 1969 Indy champion and 1978 Formula One world driving champion, will be racing in Sunday's famed 500-mile race, against his son, Michael, and a nephew, John, both 23.

ORIOLES SCORE THIRD CONSECUTIVE WIN

Brewers outlast Blue Jays

NEW YORK, May 24, (AP): The Toronto Blue Jays hit the ball harder and longer than Milwaukee. The Brewers, however, hit it more often. Milwaukee combined 14 hits and two Toronto errors last night for a 9-7 victory despite five home runs by the Blue Jays.

Tony Fernandez led off the game with a home run and George Bell, Fred McGriff, Pat Borders and Lance Mulliniks also homered for the Blue Jays. Odell Jones, 2-0, who relieved after Ted Higuera developed stiffness in his lower back in the second inning, gave up one-run on two hits in five innings, while Tom Niedenfuer made his fourth save.

Milwaukee scored five runs with in third after Todd Stottlemyre, 1-6, struck out the first two batters. Paul Molitor singled for one of his three hits, stole second and scored on a double by BJ Surhoff. Robin Yount then extended his hitting streak to 11 games with an RBI single. Greg Brock doubled home a run. Glenn Bragg reached on an error by third baseman Kelly Gruber and Rickey Henderson had an RBI groundout off Mike Witt, 1-6.

Rafael Santana singled home the tiebreaking run in the sixth inning and the New York Yankees beat the California Angels 5-2.

With the score 2-2 the sixth, Mike Pagliarulo singled and Joel Skinner doubled with one out. Santana hit his run-scoring single and Rickey Henderson had an RBI groundout off Mike Witt, 1-6.

Yankees 5, Angels 2

Rafael Santana singled home the tiebreaking run in the sixth inning and the New York Yankees beat the California Angels 5-2.

Ozzie Guillen doubled home a run in the sixth inning and the Chicago White Sox ended a seven-game losing streak by beating the Cleveland Indians 3-2.

Mark Salas singled with one out and Guillen, without an RBI since April 30, doubled with two

outs to break a 2-2 tie.

Cecilio Guante, 3-2, pitched 2-3 innings for the victory and Dave Ricketts won the final two innings for his eighth save.

Mariners 14, Red Sox 3

Jim Presley drove in five runs and joined with Mickey Brantley and Henry Cotto in hitting homers during a six-run second inning as the Seattle Mariners got a season-high 18 hits and routed the Boston Red Sox 14-3.

The Mariners exploded in the second against Dennis Boyd, 5-3. Brantley led off with his eighth homer, Glenn Wilson singled and Presley hit his sixth homer. Rey Quinones bloomed a single, Harold Reynolds tripled and Cotto hit his third homer. After Scott Bradbury walked, Boyd was relieved.

Winning pitcher Bill Swift, 4-1, gave up eight hits.

White Sox 3, Indians 2

Ozzie Guillen doubled home a run in the sixth inning and the Chicago White Sox ended a seven-game losing streak by beating the Cleveland Indians 3-2.

Mark Salas singled with one out and Guillen, without an RBI since April 30, doubled with two

outs to break a 2-2 tie.

Melido Perez, 4-1, gave up two runs and six hits in 6-2-3 innings. Bobby Thigpen finished for his seventh save. Tom Candiotti, 6-2, gave up nine hits in his seventh complete game, tied for the most in the Majors.

Twins 7, Royals 5

Gary Gaetti had three hits and scored the go-ahead run in the eighth inning on Gene Larkin's single, leading the Minnesota Twins over the Kansas City Royals 7-5.

Gaetti doubled with one out off Bret Saberhagen, 5-5. With two outs, Larkin singled for a 6-5 lead.

Keith Atherton, 2-1, got the victory and Jeff Reardon earned his eighth save.

Results

	America League	National League
Chicago	3 Cleveland	2
Minnesota	7 Kansas City	5
Milwaukee	9 Toronto	7
Seattle	14 Boston	3
New York	5 California	2
Baltimore	7 Oakland	3
Houston	3 Pittsburgh	0
Cincinnati	1 St Louis	3
Atlanta	at Chicago	ppd

Spain name team for Euro-soccer

MADRID, May 24. (Reuters): Spain have named eight Real Madrid players in a 20-man squad for the European Soccer Championship finals starting in West Germany on June 10.

Manager Michel Munoz, announcing the team last night, recalled Real captain Jose Camacho but left out his teammate Miguel Tendillo and Real Sociedad's veteran international goalkeeper Luis Arconada.

Spain's first match is against Denmark in Hanover on June 11.

Goalkeepers: Andoni Zubizareta, Miguel Buyo.

Defenders: Tomas Renones,

Diego Rodriguez, Genaro Andrinua, Manuel Sanchez, Jose Camacho, Miguel Soler.

Midfielders: Miguel Gonzalez

'Michel,' Martin Vasquez, Aitor Begiristain, Victor Munoz,

Ramon Caldera, Rafael Gordillo, Eusebio Mena, Ricardo Gallego.

Forwards: Emilio Butragueno, Julio Salinas, Jose Maria Baquero, Eloy Olaya.

Other matches:

At Cambridge: Cambridge University v Middlesex — match drawn.

Middlesex 262 and 195 for eight declared (N. Fenton four for 64).

Cambridge University 160 in 51.1 overs (D. Topley four for 37, J. Lever three for 32).

At Canterbury: Yorkshire 244 in 103 overs and 11 for one wicket. Kent 274 in 106.2 overs (R. Piensar 144, S. Hinks 66, C. Shaw four for 56).

At Oxford: Oxford 230. Lancashire 429 for seven (G. Mendis 139, T. Jesty 63, D. Hughes 57 not out, W. Hegg 42).

At Swansea: Derbyshire 453 in 132.2 overs (J. Morris 175, R. Finney 45). Glamorgan two for no wicket.

South African all-rounder Roy Piensar reeled off his second consecutive first class century when he hit 144 for Kent in their championship match against Yorkshire.

Piensar, who took a century off Oxford University last week, smashed 13 fours and a six in his innings of 309 balls.



Maradona (left), Pele (centre) and Platini join hands prior to start of the match to benefit an anti-drugs campaign. (Reuter wirephoto)

Platini brings world's best players together

JOHAN NEESSENS OF HOLLAND were among the stars who came to Nancy for the "Platini Day" festival that went on for more than 10 hours and featured three matches.

The highlight was the final game between the French and the World XI which ended in a 2-2 draw. Bruno Bellone and Jean-Pierre Papin scored for the French team, while Uruguayan Enzo Francescoli and West Germany's Lothar Matthaeus scoring for the world side.

Abuse

Organisers hoped the festival would raise around 2.5 million francs (\$440,000) for the Platini Foundation's Fight Against Drug Abuse.

The purpose of the foundation, established by the player, is to get hooked teenagers off the streets, trying to break them of their habit and get them jobs.

Jobs have already been found for 155 youngsters who have quit their habits through the foundation's work.

Platini, the best player of his generation in the world, and the only man to have won the European Player Award for three straight years (1983-84-85) played for 88 minutes for a French national team comprising players from the 1984 and 1986 squads against a World XI which featured a 45-minute appearance from Diego Maradona of Argentina. Two minutes from time, he went off — and his son Laurent replaced him to rapturous applause.

Pele of Brazil, Maradona and

Platini have spent the last year as a businessman and sports correspondent since his retirement.

The highlight of his career

came when France won the 1984 European Championship in Paris and he scored nine goals in

five games including one in the final against Spain which France won 2-0.

He also led France to two

World Cup semifinals, and

Juventus to victory in the European Cup final on the ill-fated night at the Heysel stadium in 1985 when 39 fans died before the match after a riot by English fans.

But he added: "When you are at home as the Germans are, it's always difficult for other teams."

Rush keeps Juventus in Europe

TURIN, Italy, May 24, (UPI): Juventus qualified for the UEFA Cup yesterday by beating neighbour Torino 4-2 on penalties after extra time left the result at 0-0.

The Turin derby playoff proved to be a do-or-die affair but Juventus' Welsh centreforward Ian Rush had the satisfaction of rounding off a difficult first season in Italian soccer by sneakily in the decisive penalty off the left hand post.

Yesterday's win sees Juventus competing in Europe for the 26th consecutive year.

Chances

The match was a hard-fought but rarely spectacular battle with tight man-to-man marking and few scoring chances for either side.

Turin's Austrian centreforward Anton Polster came close to scoring in the 57th minute, forcing Juventus goalkeeper Stefano Tacconi to make an acrobatic save in response to a dangerous curling free-kick.

Rush made some enterprise runs in front of the Turin goal but was unable to find his finishing skills at the crucial moments.

The two Turin sides ended the season level on 31 points. Juventus now joins Napoli, Roma and Internazionale in the UEFA Cup, while Milan has qualified for the Champions' Cup and Sampdoria will compete in the Cup Winners' Cup.

Pele has three favourites

NANCY, France, May 24, (Reuters): Hosts West Germany, Italy and England are Pele's favourites for next month's European Soccer Championship.

The Brazilian, in Nancy yesterday to kick off a charity match between a French selection and a rest of the world team, said: "I know England are in really good shape at the moment. Italy will also be fielding a strong team."

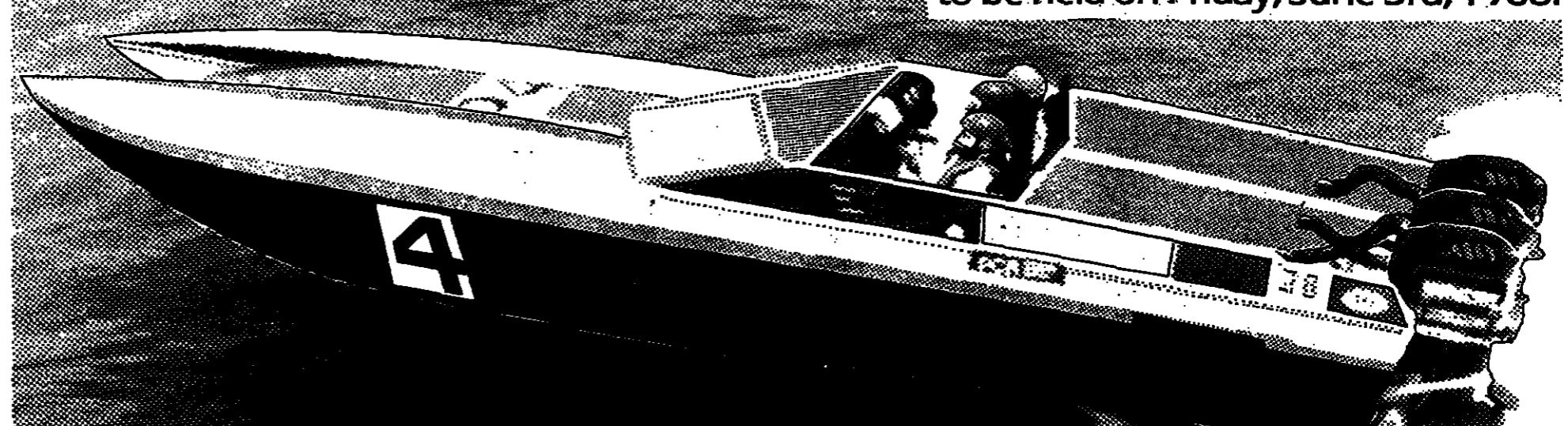
But he added: "When you are at home as the Germans are, it's always difficult for other teams."



The Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers, in cooperation with Messilah Beach Hotel are organising

KUWAIT'S 2ND BI-ANNUAL OFFSHORE POWERBOAT RACE

to be held on Friday, June 3rd, 1988.



The 61.1 Nautical mile race will start from the beach opposite the Messilah Beach Hotel.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Boats must be at least 18 ft in length.
- Engines must be outboard. If a single engine boat is used, an additional 10hp engine is advised. A maximum of two engines are allowed.
- Crew must have a minimum of two persons. All must be at least 18 years of age.
- Date June 3, 1988.
- The boat must be registered with the port authority of Kuwait or if the boat is from outside Kuwait, with the authority for its port of origin.

Safety Requirements

- All participants must have the following equipment:
- A helmet and protective glasses.
- Lifejackets (inflatable life jackets not permitted).
- A marine compass (advanced electronic navigation equipment is prohibited).
- Anchor suitable for the size of the boat and a 25 metre (minimum) rope.
- At least three red safety flares and a fire extinguisher.
- Boats must be adequately supplied with fuel sufficient to cover the race distance.
- Any battery or fuel tank leakages must be well-checked and repaired before the race.
- Each boat should carry either a telephone or a 2 way radio system.

Failure to comply with the above regulations and safety requirements will result in disqualification. Scrutineering will be held prior to the race, and competitors must display their safety equipment on the deck of the boat.

Bulletins detailing further requirements/information will be issued from time to time.

- Participation is open to all Gulf Citizens and residents who have lived in the Gulf for a minimum of six months.
- Last date for accepting entries is May 30, 1988.

Entry fee per person KD 15.000

Arab Times
Kuwait 2nd Annual Race Day



Official Race Hotel
Crown Plaza (Al-Salam)

Messilah Beach Hotel Kuwait

Al-Rashid Trading & Contracting Est.

SPORTS BRIEFS

John McEnroe

LONDON, May 24. (Reuters): John McEnroe is set to make his Wimbledon comeback three years after his last appearance at the world's oldest tennis championships. The New Yorker, 29, who won Wimbledon in 1981, 1983 and 1984, was on the list of provisional entries received yesterday by Wimbledon referee Alan Mills.

N. Ireland boss

BELFAST, May 24. (Reuters): Billy Bingham, who has steered Northern Ireland into the last two World Cup finals, has had his contract as team manager extended until 1992.

English hopes

LONDON, May 24. (Reuters): Crowd violence at last Saturday's England-Scotland match represented a severe setback to English clubs' hopes of returning to European competition. European Football Union (UEFA) secretary Hans Bungert said today.

Soviet side

MOSCOW, May 24. (Reuters): Selectors of the Soviet side for next month's European Championship soccer finals in West Germany appear to have been given a free hand in choosing their squad regardless of the country's Olympic aspirations.

Zola Budd

JOHNSBURG, May 24. (Reuters): Zola Budd says she turned to her heart for the decision to suspend an international athletics career and return to her native South Africa.

Wales win

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, May 24. (Reuters): Wales scored the first win of their Rugby Union tour of New Zealand by beating Otago 15-13 with only minutes to spare today.

Epsom Derby

LONDON, May 24. (Reuters): English 2,000 Guineas winner Dovou was announced today as a definite runner in next week's Epsom Derby after earlier doubts about whether he would stay the distance.

Overall leader

URBINO, Italy, May 24. (AP): France's Jean Francois Bernard yesterday won an individual against-the-clock "prologue" of the Italian Cycling Tour and took the pink jersey of overall leader.

Brazil soccer

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, May 24. (AP): The League-leading Fluminense lost a point in a 2-0 tie with archrival Flamengo Sunday in a second-round match of the Rio de Janeiro State Soccer Championship.

Badminton finals

KUALA LUMPUR, May 24. (Reuters): Results on the second day of the Thomas Cup and Uber Cup World Team Badminton finals today:

Thomas Cup
Malaysia beat India 5-0
Denmark beat Sweden 4-1
Uber Cup
China beat Japan 4-1
S. Korea beat England 5-0

JARRYD AND FERNANDEZ OUT OF FRENCH OPEN

Lendl and Navratilova score easy wins

PARIS, May 24. (AP): Top men's seed Ivan Lendl and Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert, second and third among the women, scored victories in straight sets today, but two other French Open seeds were knocked out — one by upset and one by injury.

Lendl, who has captured this tournament two years in a row, defeated Philippe Pech of France 6-2, 6-4, 7-6. The 15th-seeded woman, Sylvia Hunika, beat Claudia Porwitz, a fellow West German, 6-1, 6-3.

Though Pech is hardly known outside the street in which he lives in Grenoble, it was an awesome display of power tennis by Lendl, whose last defeat on clay was against Joakim Nyström of Sweden in the Italian Open in Rome last year.

Since that rare embarrassment, Lendl has won 19 successive matches on his favorite surface in collecting the French championship of last year and the Monte Carlo and Italian Open tournaments earlier this summer.

In the past 12 months Lendl has seen off a number of his chief rivals here in Paris with wins over Mats Wilander, Yannick Noah, Kent Carlsson, Martin Jaite and

the 10th seed, Anders Jarryd.

The ninth-seeded woman, American Lori McNeil, also won easily 6-2, 6-2, over Ely Hakami of the United States, but a foot injury forced 16th-seed Mary Joe Fernandez to withdraw just before her first match.

Becker falls to the ground during his match. (Reuters wirephoto)



Becker falls to the ground during his match. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nystrom twice.

Pech, ranked 252nd in the world, does not stand comparison with that band of claycourt specialists, but he is the type of player who can trouble any opponent with a French crowd

offering vociferous backing on the bullring-shaped number one court.

But apart from a minor loss of concentration at 5-2 in the third set, Lendl was in a different class throughout, surrendering his

serve for the only time in the match in the ninth game when serving for the match.

"To be honest, I'd never heard of him, never mind seen him play," said Lendl, who will play Sweden's 13th ranked player Niclas Kroon in the second round. "It's great to get the first match out of the way because you never know what to expect."

"The idea is to win as quickly as possible and just get out of there, but he made it difficult because he played really well after the first set when he was obviously very nervous."

Navratilova defeated Pat Medrado of Brazil 6-0, 6-3, faltering only briefly when she made several bad shots and dropped the first two games of the second set.

"You just get embarrassed," Navratilova said. "Then I said it was time to get down to business and I only lost one more game."

She finished her match just

moments before Evert wrapped up her 6-1, 6-4 victory against Judith Wiesner of Austria 6-1, 6-4.

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second set.

"I was a little bit nervous today," Mayotte said later, adding with a laugh: "It's one of the great milestones of my career."

Benfica change tactics for Cup

STUTTGART, West Germany, May 24. (Reuters): Benfica will attempt to keep the European Cup in Portugal with a reshuffled team and newly-devised pragmatic tactics when they meet Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven at the Neckar stadium here tomorrow.

The knee injury suffered last Saturday by captain and midfield creative force Diamantino has forced Benfica manager Antonio "Toni" Oliveira to rethink his tactics and choose an approach more cautious than that normally associated with the traditions of the great Lisbon club.

"It will be a game of patience," he said at the team's beautiful retreat in the heart of the green West German countryside away from the industrial bustle of Stuttgart.

"Without Diamantino, we have lost our main attacking force from midfield and we shall have to change our approach and our tactics," Oliveira said.

Appeared

Brazil, twice winners of the premier tournament in European club soccer in the 1960's, last appeared in the final 20 years ago when they were beaten by Manchester United and they are desperate for a return to glory following Porto's success last year.

But PSV, a cosmopolitan team full of strength, character and players of refined technique, will — as Toni readily acknowledged — provide formidable opposition in a final which has all the ingredients of a potential classic.

The Portuguese manager admitted he was concerned not only at the loss of Diamantino, but also by the presence and menace of Dutch international Ronald Koeman who, he said, was the best libero in Europe after Benfica's Brazilian star Jose Carlos Mozer.

England complete clean sweep

LONDON, May 24. (Reuters): England, with captain Mike Gatting giving the final thrust for victory by hitting an unbeaten 40, triumphed over West Indies by seven wickets at Lord's today to complete a clean sweep in the three one-day internationals.

Gatting and Allan Lamb, who made 30 not out and struck the winning boundary, sealed success on 180 for three with an unfinished stand of 56 in 29 minutes.

Pinned

The partnership provided a timely boost to the tempo after West Indies' fast bowlers had pinned down the earlier batsmen.

Courtney Walsh, whose 11 overs for 11 runs was the most economical bowling in a 55 overs game in England, and Malcolm Marshall, also a model of economy and named West Indies' Man of the Series, contributed to England's early struggle.

However, the match was effectively decided yesterday when West Indies were confined to 125 fours in 50 overs between several

bowled 12 overs between them, England had managed a meagre 13 runs.

Walsh was equally miserly in his subsequent spells and his final analysis of 11-5-11-0 was better than the previous most economical mark of compatriot Lance Gibbs and England paceman Chris Old, who both conceded 12 runs in 11-over spells.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES (overnight 125 for six in 50 overs)	
Greckidge c Defretas b Emburey	39
D. Haynes run out	10
R. Richardson downtown b Pringle	13
V. Richards c Emburey b Defretas	9
G. Logie run out	0
C. Hooper run out	12
J. Dujon not out	30
M. Marshall b Emburey	41
Extras (b-2 lb-10 w-12)	24
Total (seven wickets - 55 overs)	178
Fall of wickets: 1-40 2-75 3-79 4-79	5-95 6-11 7-17
Did not bat: D. Pringle, Paul Downton, John Emburey, Phillip Defretas, Gladstone Small, Neal Radford.	
Bowling: Marshall 9-2-21-0, Walsh 11-5-11-0, Bishop 11-1-33-2, Benjamin 9-6-38-0, Hooper 10-0-54-1.	

Kasparov takes commanding lead

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands, May 24. (AP): World champion Gary Kasparov of the Soviet Union showed he reigns supreme in the international chess arena, defeating Holland's Jan Timman in eighth-round action at the European Options Exchange Tournament yesterday.

The victory gave him a commanding lead in the standings of the four-player chess spectacular.

Kasparov's arch enemy Anatoly Karpov, whose world

title he took away in two grueling matches in 1985 and 1986 and whose challenge for the championship he defeated in yet another title bout last year, was held to a draw with black by Dutchman John van Der Wiel to lag one-and-a-half points behind the world champion.

Behind

Timman, nicknamed "The Best of the West" for his third place on the world rating list behind the two Soviet grandmas-

ters, proved no match for Kasparov in yesterday's game.

The Dutch champion played black from a slow defence, an opening he chose for want of a better weapon against the world champ's 1.p-q4, experts said.

Timman usually opts for the queen's Indian when playing black, they explained, but when Van der Wiel tried that line against Kasparov in the previous round, he ended up in a lost position halfway through the opening.

Seoul Games

TOKYO, May 24. (UPI): North Korean President Kim Il Sung has confirmed his country will not participate in the Seoul Olympics this summer, according to a statement made by Mozambique President Joaquim Alberto Chissano today.

"President Kim Il Sung said North Korea was not going to participate in the Olympics because he does not want to condone the policy of two Koreas," Chissano told a news conference at the Japan National Press Club.

Brazil clinch youth title

BUENOS AIRES, May 24. (Reuters): Brazil qualified for the World Youth Cup soccer finals by winning the South American Under-19 Championship yesterday, defeating Paraguay 1-0 in their last match.

Former regional title holders Colombia and hosts Argentina also qualified for the Saudi Arabia finals next January by finishing second and third respectively.

Argentina, who were led to the title in 1979 by Diego Maradona,

edged Paraguay out on goal difference after beating Colombia 2-1 in the closing game.

Brazil, world youth champions in 1983 and 1985, finished the final round with five points from three matches, two more than Colombia and one more than Argentina and Paraguay.

Talented striker Assis netted Brazil's goal to finish the tournament as joint leading scorer on five goals with Paraguay's Javier Ferreira.

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